**Awendaw’s**

**Goals and Strategies Worksheet**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Community Character** | **The Awendaw Community is dedicated to preserving, enhancing, and restoring the Town’s character as a rural, coastal, and forest community.** |
| Preservation of small-town character | * Ensure new development is similar in character to the existing built environment (e.g., do not permit density over 3.5 du/acre) |
| Limited highway commercial strip development | * Support community organizations in the coordination of festivals and other events that promote the values of the town |
| Housing availability and affordability | * Ensure there are affordable housing is available to residents at all income levels |
| Maintain a Low Country architectural presence for all new development. | * Annex adjacent Forest lands to buffer the community from municipal encroachment by nearby towns and cities. |
| Encourage uses that support an eco-tourism-based economy with adequate uses to serve the daily needs of residents. |  |
|  | * Interconnect parks and natural features by establishing an integrated network of trails, parks, and open spaces; maintaining existing trees; and incorporating landscaping into new developments. |
|  | * Express the Town’s distinct community identity and sense of place through improvements to the appearance of new development, commercial nodes villages, highway corridors, and streetscapes. |
|  | * Support the development of a Town Center at the eastern side of Highway 17 and Doar Road intersection and Town Hall offices. |
|  | * Enhance the arrival into Awendaw through the use of unique entry signage along Highway 17. |
|  | * Continue to support the Blue Crab Festival as a character-defining event for the community. |
|  | * Establish a community branding campaign that utilizes an image of an element in the local natural environment |
|  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Rural Lifestyle** | **The Awendaw Community recognizes and supports the fishing, wildlife, and forest lifestyles including the historic Gullah/Geechee people of the Town as unique and defining attributes.** |
| Protecting and capitalizing on cultural resources | * Sustain integrity of cultural resources to protect Town character as well as to continue drawing visitors |
| (Left blank intentionally) | * Work with Forest Service to enhance the rural appearance of Awendaw. |
| Preserve Trees | * Retain existing tree canopy and minimum lot coverage of new development |
| Maintain rural roadway appearances | * Continue acquisition of land or easements to protect areas identified as prime open spaces within the town |
| Require useable open space in residential developments | * Hold the line on all Planned Development densities to under 3.5 units per acre to protect the Town’s rural lifestyle. |
|  | * Ensure that the community does not permit urban intrusion from neighboring communities |
|  | * . |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Natural Environment** | **The Community seeks to preserve, protect, enhance, and restore the Town’s riparian corridors, woodlands, and wetlands to protect its wildlife and natural habitat, and to maintain its scenic bay vistas and tranquil environment.** |
| Accommodating Growth – Balancing natural and built environment | * Continue acquisition of land or easements to protect areas identified as prime open spaces within the town |
| Maintain a healthy tree canopy as well as a healthy groundwater environment by promoting septic systems on a regular basis. | * Establish buffers and open space areas where needed to mitigate the impacts of sea level rise and consistent flooding |
| Seek to annex any County properties along Highway 17 to avoid strip commercial sprawl creeping into Awendaw. | * Coordinate with SCDHEC on activities to ensure maintenance of on-site well and septic systems. |
|  | * Define open space not to include wetlands or manufactured storm ponds |
|  | * Require more pervious surfaces |
|  | * Continue to require planted buffers and setbacks |
|  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Built Environment**  Commercial Areas – Town Center and two commercial nodes @ Seewee/HWY 17 and at Doar/HWY 17 | **The Town believes that the built environment should be subordinate, sensitive, and complementary to the natural environment, setting, and, specific site conditions to minimize disturbance to terrain, conserve visual resources, and protect open space. The Community supports low-country architectural and site design requirements that set forth community expectations and ensure quality development.** |
| Employment areas – Highway 17 corridor | * Consider commercial intensity to lower as one moves away from Town Center |
| Open Spaces | * Ensure new development has adequate accessibility and infrastructure |
|  | * Implement commercial design guidelines that are complementary to the natural environment. |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Rural Density** | **The Awendaw Community strives to avoid the suburbanization of its Town by limiting rural residential density to a maximum of four units per acre in the densest locations on major roadways and then decreasing sharply as you move toward town peripheries. Planned communities will incorporate considerable open space and natural areas into their designs.** |
| Make use of energy-efficient low-level lighting fixtures to help protect the dark night sky from visual pollution. | * Modify the Zoning Code to amend the different minimum lot sizes in each district, remembering that the highest density allowed will be on Town Water exclusively. |
| Agree not to extend a central sewer system into the area. | * Adopt a Low-Impact Development Ordinance to minimize urban runoff. |
|  | * Consider architectural design standards/guidelines for new development along Highway 17 to avoid franchise architectural solutions. |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Circulation**  Extend the East Coast Greenway through the community with several smaller trails that connect to it.  Maintain the existing road system. | **The Awendaw Community promotes safe and convenient circulation for all modes of travel throughout the Town; on Town roads, trails, and paths.** |
| Improve east-west connectivity between Seewee Road and Highway 17 | * Develop a Trails Master Plan for the community. |
| Avoid installing signalized intersections and seek other solutions before defaulting to this urban traffic control solution. | * Establish a Roadway Master Plan for the community that improves intra-circulation throughout the community. Seek out public rights of way reservations across vacant private properties before they develop, |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Commercial Services** | **The Awendaw Community desires commercial services and facilities which meet the frequently recurring needs of the residents and the occasional needs of highway travelers. The Community feels that a key economic driver for the sustainability of the Town will be eco-tourism and businesses that support this endeavor.** |
| Hold the line at three commercial nodes along Highway 17 and the properties within ¼ mile of the Seewee, Town Center and Doar Road intersections with the Highway. Limit strip commercial in other areas along Highway 17 to current locations. | * Ensure adequate lane striping is done on a regular basis to assist drivers in adverse driving conditions. |
|  | * Actively recruit uses that support the goal of eco-tourism in the community. |
|  | * Actively recruit uses that can serve the daily needs of the residents of Awendaw while permitting a smaller number of uses that serve the highway traveler. |
|  | * Permit glamping as a viable land use in specific low-intensity zoning districts. |
|  | * Encourage bed & breakfasts and smaller overnight accommodations that fit in with the rural nature of the community. |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Safety.** | **Awendaw strives to protect persons and property from unreasonable exposure to natural hazards, such as hurricane activity, fire, unstable terrain, storms, and flood, by continuously improving regulations, policies, and procedures to reflect current best management practices.** |
| Continue hard-lined vigilance in protecting the community from flood impacts and the long-term impacts that sea level rise will have on private homes. | * Prohibit any types of vehicle repair uses from the three primary nodes. |
| Make a concerted effort to protect structures from damaging hurricane events and include specific Awendaw Hurricane Standards for new home development. | * Limit storage of outdoor recreation vehicles and boats to properties that are well-buffered and away from the three primary commercial nodes. |
|  | * Adopt smoke easements/CC&R’s/ordinances to support the use of prescribed fire. |
|  | * Adopt a formal septic management program. |
|  | * Publish an easy-to-understand hurricane guide for residents and distribute inside of our water bills. |
|  | * Make FEMA Flood Maps readily available at Town Hall for resident use. |
|  | * Consider adopting an ordinance to protect wetlands whereby development is strictly prohibited within a certain proximity. Include an added buffer requirement of 50- or 100-feet surrounding all wetlands whereby no development is allowed or is strictly regulated |
|  | * Consider adopting stormwater management and low-impact development standards or guidelines that exceed the county’s minimum. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Community Culture** | **Awendaw favors a community culture that encourages citizen involvement, individual expression, and diversity, and recognizes the interdependence with neighboring communities and responsibility as good citizens within the region, State, and nation.** |
| The safeguarding and promotion of culture is an end in itself, and at the same time, it contributes directly to the sustainability of places like Awendaw into safe and sustainable communities, decent work and economic growth, reduced inequalities, the environment, and promoting equality and peaceful and inclusive societies. The indirect benefits of culture are accrued through the culturally-informed and effective implementations of the development goals. | * Improve hurricane resistance by imposing mandatory building codes to “fortify” homes, particularly those that are most vulnerable to hurricane and storm surge impacts. Building requirements may include any of the following: Structures should be built on stilts 10-12 feet above MSL, stilts (or piles) should be anchored deep into the ground, concrete frames, added cross-bracing and hurricane clips, water-repellant foam, metal roof, fiberglass or metal doors, hurricane impact windows, etc. |
|  | * Utilize low-interest loans from the Resilience Revolving Fund to perform restoration activities and/or voluntary floodplain/coastal inundation buyouts of eligible, high priority properties in Awendaw. |
|  | * Encourage public participation by providing a wide range of opportunities for citizens to receive clear and concise information and to provide input into the City’s decision‐making process. Whenever possible, provide citizens and decision‐makers with accessible, simplified, and understandable technical information necessary to make policy recommendations and decisions. |
|  | * Recognize, sustain, and celebrate the important contributions made to American culture and history by African Americans, known as the Gullah Geechee, who settled in the coastal areas of Awendaw and other coastal communities. |
|  | * Assist state and local governments and public and private entities in South Carolina, Georgia, North Carolina, and Florida in interpreting the story of the Gullah Geechee and preserving Gullah Geechee folklore, arts, crafts, and music. |
|  | * Encourage the preservation of Gullah Geechee lands and built heritage to foster cultural preservation |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Sustainability** | **The Awendaw Community seeks to be a good steward of the land. The goal is to promote the conservation of resources and utilize sustainable practices which recognize the connection to, and interdependence with, the natural environment** |
| Sustainable rural development involves a holistic approach where the daily basic needs of rural populations must be covered by reliable public utilities combined with technical, socioeconomic, and environmental conditions to support regional economies and urban-rural linkages. | * Protect, restore, and enhance finfish, shellfish, and other living resources, their habitats, and ecological relationships to sustain all fisheries and provide for a balanced ecosystem in the watershed and Bulls Bay. |
| Rural development is a process that seeks social change and sustainable economic development for Awendaw’s ongoing progress. The ultimate goal is to improve their life quality and preserve the environment. | * Support shellfish aquaculture which is an important economic resource for the area. Protect the water quality within the Bulls Bay environment. |
| Planning for sustaining places such as Awendaw is a dynamic, democratic process through which we plan to meet the needs of current and future generations without compromising the ecosystems upon which they depend by balancing social, economic, and environmental resources, incorporating resilience, and linking local actions to regional and global concerns. | * Ensuring all people enjoy the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and have access to clean energy, clean water, and clean air to maintain a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work. |
|  | * Ensure that all elements of the built environment — including land use, transportation, housing, energy, and infrastructure — work together to provide sustainable, green places for living, working, and recreating, with a high quality of life. |
|  | * Ensure that the contributions of natural resources to human well-being are explicitly recognized and valued and that maintaining their health is a primary objective. |
|  | * Ensure that Awendaw is prepared to deal with both positive and negative changes in its economic health and to initiate sustainable village development and redevelopment strategies that foster green business growth and build reliance on local assets. |
|  | * Ensure fairness and equity in providing for the housing, services, health, safety, and livelihood needs of all citizens and groups. |
|  | * Ensure that public health needs are recognized and addressed through provisions for healthy foods, physical activity, access to recreation, health care, environmental justice, and safe neighborhoods. |
|  | * Ensure that all local proposals account for, connect with, and support the plans of adjacent jurisdictions and the surrounding region. |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |