

## RIVER SOURCE TO SUPPLY DRINKING WATER TO CITY

We all know how much we depend on water in our daily lives and the City of Florence is looking out for your future drinking water quality and supply.

As early as 2003, the City of Florence will be starting up the Pee Dee River Regional Water System, located in the Pee Dee Regional Commerce Center, just south of I-95. The new water system will be able to treat and process water from the Pee Dee River, making it an abundant, viable source for the City of Florence and Florence County.

Water quality and quantity was an important consideration in the construction of the new water system. The City currently uses groundwater as its supply source for approximately

65,000 people including nearly 18,000 residences and more than 4,500 businesses. As Florence continues to grow, water supply will have to continue to grow to meet the community's needs.

Even during periods of drought, studies show that the Pee Dee River can provide an abundant source of raw water. According to the U.S. Geological Survey's Water Resources Data, flow in the river near U.S. Highway 76 and 301 has averaged more than 6,400 million gallons per day (mgd) since 1939. The lowest average flow over one day was 465 mgd in June 1984. Testing conducted on the Pee Dee River proves that river water can readily be treated to meet drinking water standards using conventional treatment methods at any flow rate.

Designed to allow for future expansion, the Pee Dee River Regional Water System will be able to treat 10 mgd starting in 2003, but by 2020, the system could be upgraded to treat up to 50 mgd.

The Pee Dee River has been proven to provide high-quality drinking water for water systems, such as the Town of Cheraw. Additional analyses by Camp Dresser & McKee and the City of Florence confirmed the river's water



**The Pee Dee River Regional Water Treatment Plant will feature a raw water supply intake (pictured) and pumping station located at the river, and a 4-mile raw water pipeline to convey water to a new surface water treatment plant.**

quality and treatability.

The new water treatment facilities include granular activated carbon filtration treatment as well as raw water storage to provide quality drinking water for all customers of this regional water system.

Cost for construction is \$35 million and is funded in part by low interest loans from the S.C. Revolving Loan Fund administered by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. Camp Dresser & McKee of Charlotte, NC,

designed the new water treatment plant.

The Pee Dee River Regional Water System will include a new raw water supply intake and pumping station located at the river, and a raw water pipeline to convey water to a new surface water treatment plant. Treated water will be stored in clearwells at the water treatment plant site, and a high service pumping station will pump finished water from the clearwell to interconnections with the existing distribution system.



**Construction continues on the Pee Dee River Regional Water Treatment Plant with plans for completion set for 2003.**

## STORMWATER: PROTECTING OUR WATER QUALITY AND OUR ENVIRONMENT BY PREVENTING POLLUTION

Most of our rainwater travels through gutters, storm drains and ditches before emptying into streams and rivers. This type of rainwater is called stormwater.

### What Is Stormwater Pollution?

As stormwater flows across streets and parking lots and picks up dirt, trash, oil, grease and other things from humans and animals, it becomes stormwater pollution. Golf courses, agricultural fields, and home gardens and lawns often add fertilizers and pesticides to stormwater pollution. Septic tanks in waterlogged areas can contribute sewage to the pollution. All of these contaminants mix together and flow away as non-point source

pollution, which is pollution that does not come from a single, identifiable source. Non-point source pollution is also commonly known as stormwater pollution. Stormwater pollution is one of the top polluters of lakes, rivers, creeks and estuaries in the United States.

### Who's Responsible For Stormwater Pollution?

The largest source of stormwater pollution in Florence results from everyday activities. Everyone, in one way or another, is likely to be part of the problem, but everyone can also be part of the solution. Stormwater pollution includes: bacteria and viruses, chemicals, pesticides, trash, sediments and motor vehicle fluids. The following information includes

helpful tips that allow you to take part in reducing stormwater pollution.

### Lawns and Gardens

Lawns and gardens contribute to stormwater pollution with pesticides and fertilizers.

- Reduce water requirements of your landscaping by selecting drought-tolerant plants. Use drip irrigation or a soaker hose and mulching.
- Do not apply pesticides or fertilizer if heavy rain is expected.
- Use only fertilizers that are really needed based on soil tests and plant needs.

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## CITY OF FLORENCE COUNCIL MEMEBERS

Frank E. Willis, *Mayor*  
 Billy D. Williams, *District 1*  
 Edward Robinson, *District 2*  
 Maitland S. Chase, III, *District 3*  
 William C. Bradham, Jr.,  
*Member-At-Large*  
 Robert C. Holland, Jr.,  
*Member-At-Large*  
 Richard L. Woodard,  
*Member-At-Large*

City Council and the Mayor serve four-year terms. City Council meets the second Monday of every month at 1 p.m. at Room 604 at the City-County Complex, 180 North Irby Street, Florence, SC.

# CITY WORKS TO PREVENT STORMWATER PROBLEMS

The City of Florence has an active role in preventing and managing stormwater troubles in the city. Through the Stormwater Operations Division, the City is working on stormwater capital improvements projects to help prevent stormwater problems, such as flooding. The City's Stormwater Operations Division also maintains storm drains and drainage ditches in public areas and along city streets.

Storm drains and ditches divert the rainwater away from road surfaces, parking lots, and rooftops into larger water bodies such as creeks, streams, rivers, and eventually, the ocean.

City of Florence staff evaluates and prioritizes all stormwater projects based upon specific concerns such as health

and safety, environmental impact, infrastructure and private property damage, major flooding or erosion.

"Our goal with the projects is to get the drainage system operating effectively within the City of Florence," said Drew Griffin, head of the Public Works Department.

In October 2001, the City of Florence established a stormwater utility fee to your city services bill that will help generate revenues that will be used for stormwater capital improvement projects. Unfortunately not all problems can be corrected immediately.

## Capital Improvement Projects

Capital improvement projects include major upgrades, repairs or

equipment purchases that improve the stormwater drainage system and prevent flooding. All projects are evaluated, grouped and scheduled to determine the highest priority.

The day-to-day maintenance of the drainage system is not considered a capital project. Instead, the common maintenance activities, such as cleaning catch basins, sweeping streets and clearing ditches, would be supported in the program's operating budget. For a list of current City of Florence projects, see the corresponding map on this page.

## Project Scheduling

The scheduling of stormwater projects may differ from project priority. Project scheduling relies on a number of

factors such as cost, available services, manpower needs, planning and construction time, project magnitude, readiness to proceed and right of way availability. If outside resources are available, the project may move up on the schedule of projects but not on the priority list. Overall, high priority projects will be scheduled first but projects that require less manpower and time are less costly or small in magnitude could potentially be scheduled first.

For more information or to report a storm drain or ditch that is backed up or flooding, contact the Stormwater Operation Division, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at 1440 McCurdy Road or call (843) 665-3236.

# CITY OF FLORENCE STORMWATER CAPITAL PROJECTS

(Numbers correspond to numbers on map, not to project schedule or priority.)

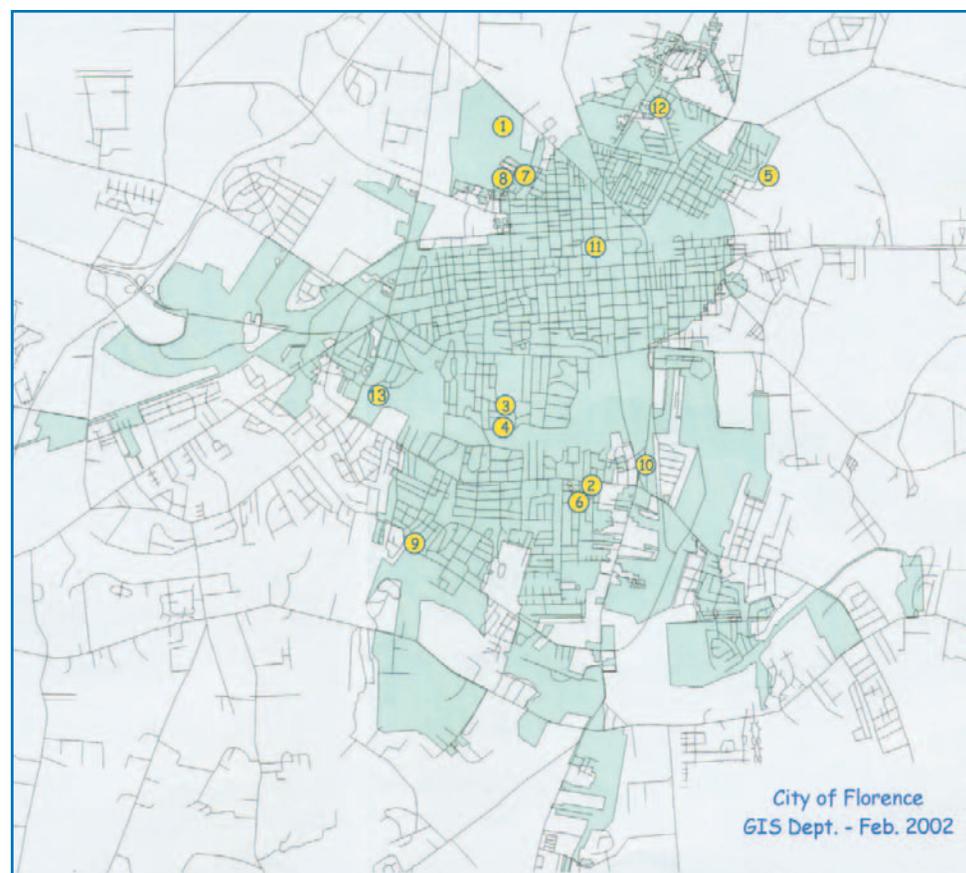
**(1) Ingram / Dunbar Outfall** - Area is served by an undefined swale. Project scope is to reestablish swale and ditch to provide drainage to the Ingram and Dunbar area. A future project would include piping the ditch. Project would minimize property damage within the area. Estimated cost is \$100,000.

**(2) Friendship Park Area** - Area frequently floods after a summer thunder storm causing the road to be impassable. Project scope is to pipe existing swales and ditches. Piping would tie into existing ditching and pipe that extends along Caines Funeral Home Property or the Malden Drive Outfall. Estimated cost is \$45,000.

**(3) Beverly / Claremont Ditch** - Area is subject to peak runoff. Peak runoff at this point creates dangerous conditions with fast, high, and swirling water at point of head wall. Project scope is to pipe ditch that matches up-stream flows and to tie pipe into existing infrastructure at Claremont Crossings Subdivision. Estimated cost is \$40,000.

**(4) Wentworth Avenue at Wisteria Avenue** - Area is subject to peak runoff with a history of backyard residential flooding with some property damage. Two relatively small pipes currently exist at the point of construction under Wisteria Avenue. These pipes due to their size and location often become blinded with debris during a rain event. Project scope is to remove the current piping and replace piping with a box culvert. Project would also include some minimal upstream ditch work. Estimated cost is \$70,000.

**(5) Woodmont Outfall** - Area subject to public health risk due to inoperable stormwater system. Project scope is to reestablish the drainage outfall that services the Woodmont Subdivision. Any available funding would be directed at piping existing ditches within the subdivision. Estimated cost is \$200,000.



**(6) Malden Drive Outfall** - Area is subject to flooded roadways and area wide flooding with no extensive property damages. Limited options to resolve flooding conditions. Project scope is to redirect stormwater from Malden Drive area to drainage system along Second Loop Road or through drainage system that serves the Sheffield Subdivision. Estimated cost is \$162,000.

**(7) Northwest Park** - Area is subject to significant maintenance concerns and is a public nuisance. Project scope is to pipe an open ditch located along the eastern edge of Northwest Park. The project would be a significant improvement within this area. Estimated cost is \$50,000.

**(8) Cumberland Avenue** - Area is subject to moderate flooding and is considered a public nuisance. Project scope is to pipe and replace an existing culvert that is unsightly and broken. Estimated cost is \$10,000.

**(9) Woods Drive Outfall** - Area is subject to localized flooding due to an inoperable stormwater drainage

system. Project scope is to construct a drainage outfall that serves the College Park Subdivision. Estimated cost is \$242,000.

**(10) Meadors Farm Road Ditch** - Ditch is located immediately adjacent to edge of road and subjects the road to failures. Project scope is to extend ditch piping along edge of road to stabilize the ditch bank and right-of-way. Estimated cost is \$55,000.

**(11) 100 North Coit Street** - East side of block is subject to localized flooding with property damage. Project scope is to construct additional drop inlets and to parallel existing storm drain with an additional run of pipe. Estimated cost is \$84,000.

**(12) Whitehall / Buncombe Drainage System** - Area is served with an inadequate drainage system. The recent annexation was initiated in part due to lack of an adequate drainage system. Project scope is to construct a storm drainage system within the Whitehall Subdivision to serve annexed residents. Estimated cost is \$90,000.

**(13) Jeffries Creek Restoration Project** - Area issues include beaver damage, channel blockage caused by fallen trees, stormwater and pollution runoff. Project scope is to remove selected downed timber, to control the beaver problem, and to work towards an ongoing stormwater maintenance program. Estimated cost is \$580,000.

# RAIL TRAIL ALMOST READY FOR FLORENCE RUNNERS

City residents will soon be able to walk, run, and bike when the City of Florence officially opens the Rail Trail on National Trails Day on June 1, 2002.

Since 1999, the City has been developing the 4-mile multi-purpose trail system from Sneed Middle School to McLeod Park to provide opportunities for walking, biking and rollerblading among other physical fitness activities. The project has been made possible through two grants, one for \$100,000 from the State Trails Division of the S.C. Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism and the other for \$324,000 from an Enhancement Grant from the S.C. Department of Transportation.

Much of this trail will utilize an abandoned rail corridor owned by the City. A portion of McLeod Regional Hospital property located at McLeod Fitness Center is also being developed as a link for the trail.

The Palmetto Conservation Foundation, a non-profit organization for the protection and conservation of natural, cultural and historic resources,

approached the City of Florence in March 1999 with plans for the development of trails in the Florence community. The Foundation was specifically interested in plans for the development of a trail using the abandoned rail corridor running parallel to West Palmetto Street (Highway 76) towards Ebenezer Road and Sneed Middle School.

The City has already completed much of the work on the abandoned rail corridor and construction will soon begin for the laying of the asphalt along 1.5 miles of the rail corridor. The City will also construct a parking area and install landscaping at the entrance of the trail at Ebenezer Road.

To make this trail project a reality, the City of Florence has collaborated with various agencies including the Palmetto Conservation Foundation, the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, Florence School District # 1, McLeod Hospital, Clemson Extension Service, Florence County Recreation and the S.C. Department of Transportation.



*The City has developed a 4-mile multi-purpose trail near McLeod Park to provide opportunities for walking, running and rollerblading among other activities.*

## STORMWATER: PROTECTING OUR WATER QUALITY AND OUR ENVIRONMENT BY PREVENTING POLLUTION

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- Keep fertilizer off driveways and sidewalks where it will be washed into storm drains.
- Do not dump grass clippings or blow yard waste onto streets or into the drainage system.

### Household Chemicals

Most households contain chemicals, such as furniture polish, drain cleaner and disinfectants that can cause pollution if released into the environment. These chemicals can become pollutants if residues are discarded with garbage, poured down storm drains or onto the land surface.

- Don't burn or bury leftover chemicals or containers.
- Stuff used cans of paint, thinner or other finishes and solvents with newspapers and allow to dry before putting the cans into the trash.
- Never pour household chemicals down drains, storm drains or onto the ground.

### Motor Vehicles

Used oil, antifreeze and other motor vehicle fluids are often dumped into storm drains or roadside ditches. The

pollution caused by improper disposal of used motor oil in the United States is equal to 14 Exxon Valdez spills every year. The problem is even worse if we consider the oil that leaks from poorly maintained vehicles.

- Maintain motor vehicles and repair leaks promptly.
- Dispose of used motor oil in oil recycling centers.
- Arrange with local service stations to take your used antifreeze.
- Avoid gas tank overflows during refueling.

### Septic Tanks

A properly operating septic tank system can be a safe and effective means of disposing of household wastewater. If the drain field is damaged or the soil becomes saturated, nearby wells and surface waters may become contaminated with sewage products.

- Keep heavy vehicles and plant roots away from drain field pipes.
- Avoid putting household chemicals down the drain that could destroy bacteria in the septic tanks.

- Conserve water and stagger water intensive uses that could overload the system.
- Have the system inspected annually and pumped out every three to five years.
- Be alert for bright green grass growing over the drain field that could indicate sewage effluent near the surface.

### Animal Waste

Animal wastes are high in nutrients as well as bacteria and can contribute to excessive plant growth in waterways. Many pet owners do not believe that their one animal could make much difference, but when the wastes from all the pets in one community are added together, the impact is significant.

- Clean up after pets and dispose of wastes in the trash or toilet.

### Car Washing On Hard Surfaces

Paved roads, driveways, rooftops and parking lots cause rainwater to flow rapidly into our ditches and our storm drains - and directly into our waterways.

- Wash your car only when necessary.

- Use a bucket or pistol grip nozzle to keep from running water unnecessarily.
- If you can, wash your car in a grassy area.

### Farms And Pastures

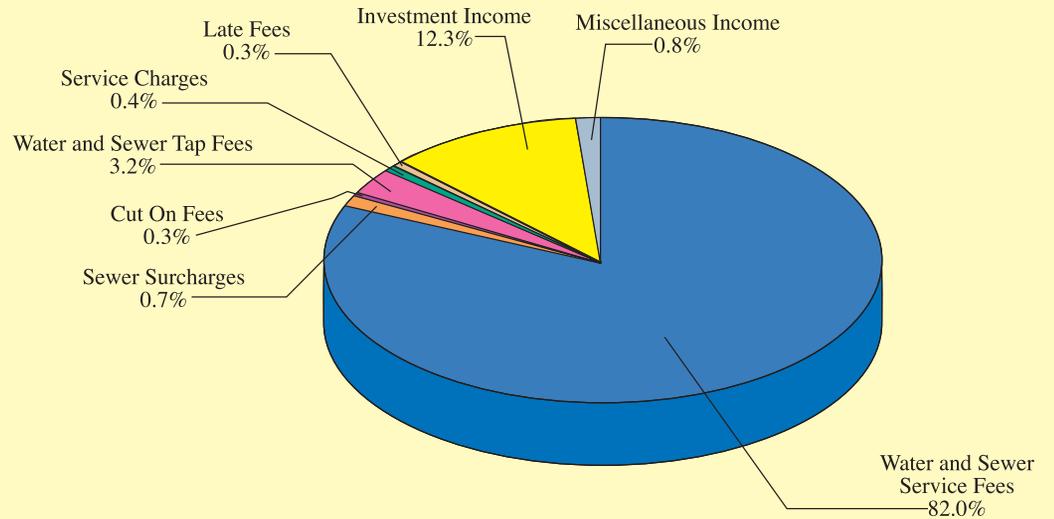
It is important to properly manage animal wastes, plant cover removal and application of chemicals. Poor farming practices can result in stormwater contamination when sediments carrying pesticides, bacteria and oxygen consuming substances flows into creeks and other surface waters.

- Plant vegetation at the base of steep slopes and in drainage ditches to slow the rate of stormwater and trap pollutants.
- Keep heavy equipment off exposed soil during rainy periods.
- Practice conservation tillage.
- Manage animal densities to prevent pasture overgrazing.
- Locate feed and nutrient storage facilities away from streams and drainage ways.

# CITY OF FLORENCE WATER & SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND 2000-2001 FISCAL YEAR

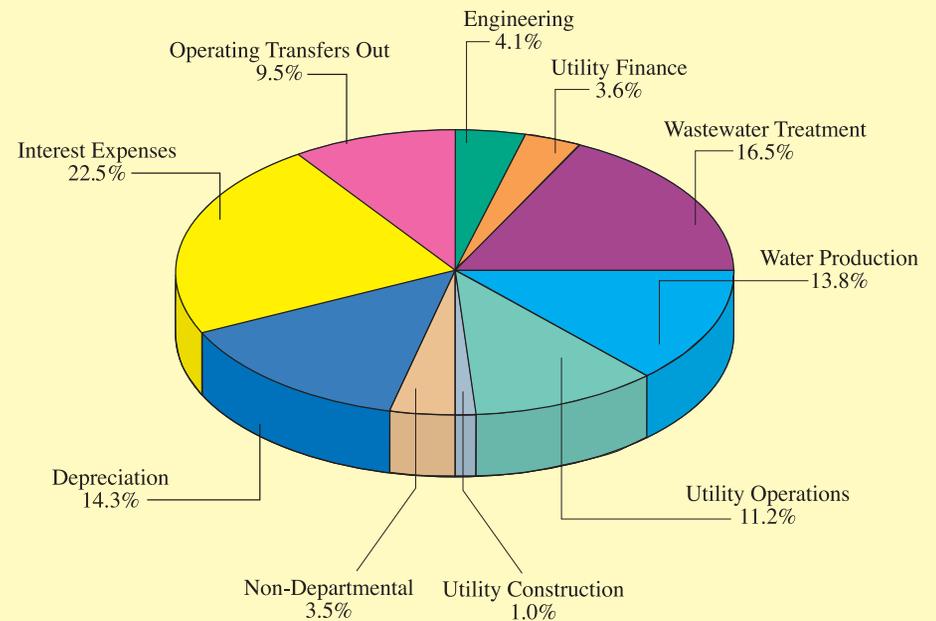
## OPERATING REVENUES

	JUNE 30, 2001	JUNE 30, 2000
WATER AND SEWER SERVICES	\$15,052,406	\$13,404,850
SEWER SURCHARGES	\$129,507	\$65,539
CUT ON FEES	\$48,787	\$49,400
WATER AND SEWER TAP FEES	\$584,981	\$532,128
SERVICE CHARGES	\$80,425	\$88,935
LATE FEES	\$57,423	\$57,070
INVESTMENT INCOME	\$2,259,331	\$1,032,464
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	\$141,545	\$32,610
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$18,354,405</b>	<b>\$15,262,996</b>



## OPERATING EXPENSES

	JUNE 30, 2001	JUNE 30, 2000
ENGINEERING	\$586,538	\$447,343
UTILITY FINANCE	\$508,925	\$441,493
WASTEWATER TREATMENT	\$2,358,987	\$2,041,221
WATER PRODUCTION	\$1,980,260	\$2,103,870
UTILITY OPERATIONS	\$1,610,475	\$1,499,526
UTILITY CONSTRUCTION	\$137,483	\$81,240
NON-DEPARTMENTAL	\$497,529	\$520,347
DEPRECIATION	\$2,053,181	\$2,034,897
INTEREST EXPENSE	\$3,232,744	\$1,922,295
OPERATING TRANSFERS OUT	\$1,356,144	\$1,177,925
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$14,322,266</b>	<b>\$12,270,157</b>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$4,032,139</b>	<b>\$2,992,839</b>



## COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET: ASSETS

	JUNE 30, 2001	JUNE 30, 2000
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	\$3,476,007	\$4,747,105
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLES	\$2,487,902	\$2,362,222
DUE FROM OTHER FUNDS	\$190,843	\$85,953
DUE FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS	\$100,000	\$100,000
RECEIVABLE - OTHER	\$39,001	\$3,597
INVESTMENTS	\$11,050,401	\$10,241,72
INVENTORIES	\$199,471	\$158,522
RESTRICTED ASSETS:		
CASH	\$1,468,772	\$992,180
INVESTMENTS	\$12,417,854	\$23,317,190
PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT NET OF ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION	\$78,647,028	\$57,140,641
UNAMORTIZED LOAN EXPENSE	\$900,685	\$921,921
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$110,977,964</b>	<b>\$100,071,059</b>

## COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET: LIABILITIES

	JUNE 30, 2001	JUNE 30, 2000
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$4,004,941	\$598,419
ACCRUED INTEREST	\$770,438	\$524,479
OTHER LIABILITIES	\$106,817	\$77,390
DEPOSITS	\$37,532	\$38,724
NOTES PAYABLE LONG TERM	\$26,233,748	\$21,911,358
REVENUE BONDS PAYABLE	\$34,203,813	\$35,369,486
COMPENSATED ABSENCES	\$259,978	\$222,644
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$65,617,267</b>	<b>\$58,742,500</b>

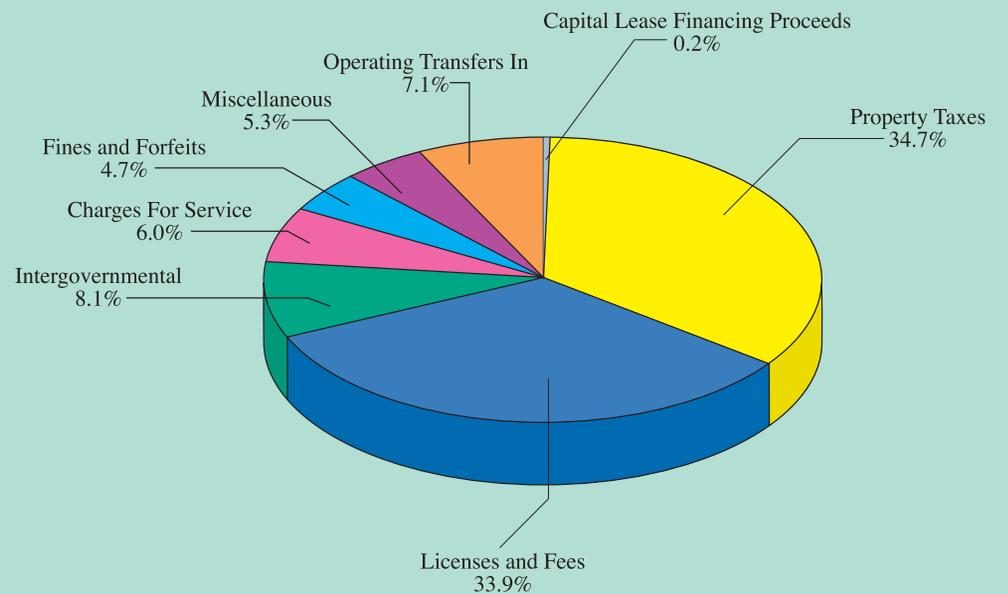
## COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET: FUND EQUITY

CONTRIBUTED CAPITAL	\$1,650,149	\$1,698,325
RETAINED EARNINGS	\$43,710,548	\$39,630,234
<b>TOTAL FUND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$45,360,697</b>	<b>\$41,328,559</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$110,977,964</b>	<b>\$100,071,059</b>

# CITY OF FLORENCE GENERAL FUND 2000-2001 FISCAL YEAR

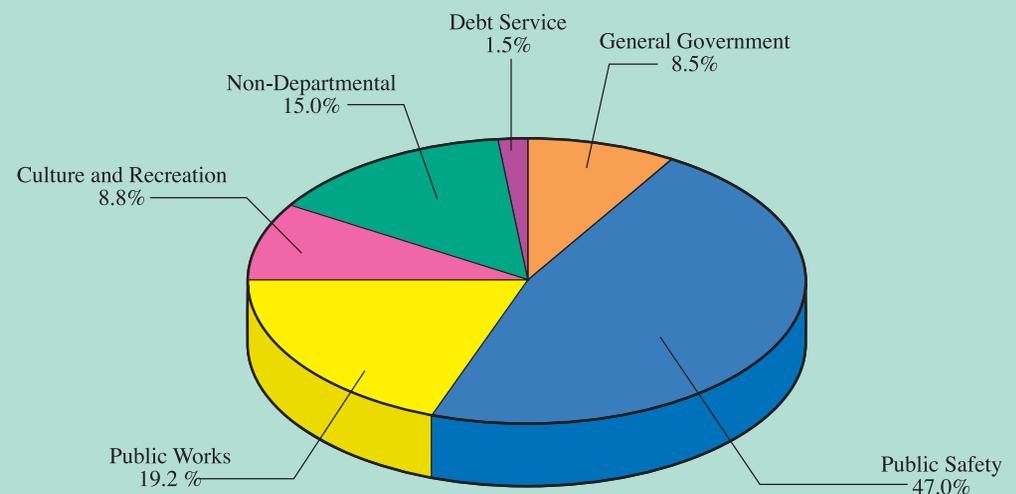
## REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES

	JUNE 30, 2001	JUNE 30, 2000
PROPERTY TAXES	\$6,976,218	\$6,792,442
LICENSES AND FEES	\$6,828,618	\$5,899,590
INTERGOVERNMENTAL	\$1,622,210	\$1,370,608
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	\$1,203,462	\$1,150,709
FINES AND FORFEITS	\$950,840	\$930,993
MISCELLANEOUS	\$1,067,413	\$484,891
OPERATING TRANSFERS IN	\$1,421,847	\$1,232,625
CAPITAL LEASE FINANCING PROCEEDS	\$47,856	\$756,172
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$20,118,464</b>	<b>\$18,618,030</b>



## EXPENDITURES

	JUNE 30, 2001	JUNE 30, 2000
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$1,613,304	\$1,577,752
PUBLIC SAFETY	\$8,881,251	\$8,675,810
PUBLIC WORKS	\$3,634,239	\$3,626,044
CULTURE AND RECREATION	\$1,663,912	\$1,440,951
NON-DEPARTMENTAL	\$2,832,359	\$2,957,456
DEBT SERVICE	\$290,680	\$263,841
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$18,915,745</b>	<b>\$18,541,854</b>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$1,202,719</b>	<b>\$76,176</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$9,186,704</b>	<b>\$9,110,528</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$10,389,423</b>	<b>\$9,186,704</b>



## COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET: ASSETS

	JUNE 30, 2001	JUNE 30, 2000
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	\$5,055,810	\$4,171,614
RECEIVABLES:		
PROPERTY TAXES-NET	\$144,981	\$111,092
DUE FROM OTHER FUNDS	\$272,972	\$54,864
DUE FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS	\$1,085,444	\$1,166,289
OTHER	\$66,721	\$61,075
INVESTMENTS	\$5,975,246	\$5,609,867
INVENTORIES	\$188,104	\$162,680
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$12,789,278</b>	<b>\$11,337,481</b>

## COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET: LIABILITIES

	JUNE 30, 2001	JUNE 30, 2000
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$139,549	\$132,309
DUE TO OTHER FUNDS	\$190,843	\$85,953
OTHER LIABILITIES	\$568,576	\$473,821
DEFERRED REVENUES	\$1,500,887	\$1,458,694
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$2,399,855</b>	<b>\$2,150,777</b>

## COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET: FUND BALANCES

DESIGNATED FOR SUBSEQUENT YEARS' EXPENDITURES	\$1,258,358	\$1,203,427
UNDESIGNATED	9,131,065	\$7,983,277
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>\$10,389,423</b>	<b>\$9,186,704</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>\$12,789,278</b>	<b>\$11,337,481</b>

## JEFFRIES CREEK AQUATIC RESTORATION PROJECT UNDERWAY

Jeffries Creek, a valuable community resource, is on its way to being restored as a beautiful, thriving creek.

The City of Florence recognized the importance of Jeffries Creek as an environmental amenity and, in 1998, initiated the Jeffries Creek Aquatic Restoration Project to enhance conditions.

In recent years, the creek has deteriorated from problems associated with Hurricane Hugo in 1989. Since then, Jeffries Creek has steadily declined in both usefulness and beauty. A combination of fallen trees, debris and an increase in beaver population and dams, have entrapped sediments and damaged the floodplain of Jeffries Creek. The removal of the hardwood canopy has allowed sunlight to reach the normally shaded shallow water. This has caused an explosion of

aquatic plant growth, including hydrilla. Stormwater pollution has also contributed to the condition to the Jeffries Creek drainage system.

The Jeffries Creek Aquatic Restoration Project aims to environmentally restore the creek with the removal of fallen timber, to control the beaver population and to remove beaver dams. Drains under roadways will be installed to reestablish and maintain water flow in the natural creek channel of Jeffries Creek. Over time the original and natural beauty of the creek will be reestablished.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers agreed to fund a portion of the project, which is estimated to be approximately \$580,000 with the City's share estimated at \$203,000. Another key component to help fund the project includes the money

generated from your stormwater utility fees. The stormwater utility fee is charged

to all residents and business owners in the City of Florence.



*The City plans to restore Jeffries Creek from years of deterioration and damage.*

## CITY OF FLORENCE CLASSIFIED UNDER STORMWATER PHASE II REGULATIONS

Communities have made significant progress in cleaning up the nations' waterways by upgrading wastewater treatment plants and implementing industrial pretreatment programs. One significant source of the remaining pollution is stormwater.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has expanded the Clean Water Act of 1972 to include stormwater regulation to help control pollutants from entering the system and to protect water quality. In 1990 the EPA began regulating stormwater in Phase I communities with populations of 100,000 or more. On December 8, 1999, the EPA published final regulations for Phase II communities (population less than 100,000), which includes the City of Florence.

The City of Florence supports the Federal Clean Water Act and recognizes that beneficial uses of our water are essential factors to the quality of life for our citizens and of our environment.

Through the stormwater regulations of Phase II, the City of Florence is legally bound to implement the mandates of a 1987 amendment to the Clean Water Act, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. By next spring, the City of Florence is required to be in compliance with Phase II Stormwater regulations as implemented by the EPA and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC).

The City will be required to get permits and manage stormwater runoff under the Phase II Stormwater regulations.

By March 2003, the City of Florence will be required to have in place the following performance requirements:

**1. Public Education and Outreach -** Develop programs involving distribution of materials to the public and conduct outreach about stormwater pollutants and how citizens can reduce pollutants.

**2. Public Involvement & Participation -** Public involvement in developing, implementing and reviewing stormwater management programs such as serving on panels, attending public hearings, and working as volunteers to educate others.

**3. Illicit Discharge Detection, Limitation and Elimination -** Discharges that contribute pollutants may include: lawn pesticides and fertilizers, car wash soaps, motor vehicle fluids, house hold chemicals, trash (plastic bottles, paper, etc.) and swimming pool discharges.

**4. Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control -** Develop a program to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff from construction sites.

**5. Post Construction Stormwater Management -** Monitor to ensure construction BMP's (best management practices) are operating and are maintained properly.

**6. Municipal Pollution Prevention -** Develop and implement maintenance programs to prevent or reduce pollutant runoff from municipal operations.

These six performance requirements are minimum measures required by the EPA, and as a result, the City of Florence has implemented a stormwater utility. Also, the City will develop a stormwater ordinance to define and enforce these requirements.

## CITY AWARDED \$3.2 MILLION GRANT FOR HIGHWAY 327 CORRIDOR SEWER SYSTEM

The City of Florence has been awarded a \$3.2 million state grant to construct a sewer system along Highway 327 between I-95 and Highway 76/301. The sewer system will help create a corridor ideal for new industrial development and commercial growth along an undeveloped gateway to the city.

The City was awarded the grant through a competitive selection process established for distributing funds available through the South Carolina Tobacco Settlement Revenue Management Authority Act for water and wastewater improvements under specific criteria set forth by the South Carolina Department of Commerce Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Fund.

In its grant application, the City noted that further development of the Pee Dee Regional Commerce Center and the Highway 327 corridor is limited by the lack of available water and sewer infrastructure. While Florence County currently provides sewer services to Crenlo Industries in the commerce center, additional water and sewer capacity is not currently available, hindering efforts to market other industrial sites in both the commerce center and along the corridor.

Later this year, the commerce center

and corridor will be assured an abundant supply of water for potential industries when the city completes construction of its Pee Dee Regional Water System. The system includes construction of a 36-inch transmission main along the Highway 327 corridor, which will be fed by the new Pee Dee Regional Water Treatment Facility. Now under construction, the treatment plant will be capable of processing and purifying 10 million gallons of high-quality water per day from the Pee Dee River.

The state grant will enable the City to construct a consolidated sewer system, consisting of a network of gravity sewers, pump stations and force main, which will "eliminate the only hindrance to significant economic development of the Highway 327 corridor," according to the city's grant application.

The system will serve the entire 5 1/2 mile-stretch of the corridor and have the capacity to handle approximately 2.5 million gallons of wastewater per day.

Construction of the system is scheduled to begin this summer with completion and operation slated for July 2003.



## ANNUAL PICNIC IN THE PARK

Celebrate spring this year with a free delicious hotdog lunch served to you by the City of Florence staff. The annual Picnic in the Park will be held from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, May 9 at the Timrod Park picnic shelter. The event is free and open to anyone and everyone in the community. For more information, call the City Recreation Department at (843) 665-3253.

# LET YOUR GARDEN FLOURISH THIS SPRING

The City of Florence has free compost and mulch available for water and/or sewer customers. Compost, also known as Flo-Gro, is available at the City's Wastewater Plant and mulch is available at the City's Public Works Department.

## What Is Compost?

The City of Florence meets specific permit conditions prior to distribution of the compost. Only non-hazardous sludge solids that are generated at the Florence Wastewater Treatment Plant, which have been composted to meet Class A – Excellent Quality (EQ) standards, will be used in the distribution program.

Compost is a rich, loamy mixture produced by the decomposition of organic matter. A soil enhancer, compost dramatically improves soil quality by adding much-needed nutrients to the existing soil. In addition to increasing seed germination by as much as fifty percent, compost is beneficial to flowering plants and shrubs and minimizes the need for additional fertilizers.

In 1994 the City of Florence began a compost operation to eliminate wastewater sludge waste. Compost is a mixture that consists largely of decayed organic matter and is used for fertilizing and conditioning land. The compost material has been given the title "Flo-Gro" and is used in many of the City's flowerbeds. The operation is regulated by the South Carolina Department of

Health and Environmental Control.

Flo-Gro may be picked up from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at the City of Florence Wastewater Treatment Facility located at 1000 Stockade Road.

## What Is Mulch?

Mulch is a mixture composed of yard waste and tree clippings that are broken up through a tub grinder. In addition to protecting the plants' root systems, Mulch provides good weed prevention and moisture retention.

Mulch may be picked up from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at the City's Public Works Department located at 1440 McCurdy Road.

## What Can I Do With Compost and Mulch?

Compost and mulch can be used for residential lawn and garden, turf farms, commercial landscaping projects, and nurseries. Mulch is distributed on a first come, first serve basis. It is estimated by the City of Florence that approximately 1,000 pounds of compost and mulch are available to each customer.

## How Can I Get Compost/Mulch For My Garden?

- 1) You will need to identify yourself as a City of Florence water and/or sewer customer with a copy of your bill, a receipt or other identifying information. Bring this information with you to the designated facility.



Mulch is made by the City Public Works Department and is a mixture of yard waste and tree clippings that are broken up through a tub grinder (pictured),

- 2) For compost, you need to go to the Wastewater Treatment Office. For mulch, you need to go to the Public Works Department Office.
- 3) Compost and mulch are free, but you will receive a receipt from staff at the site.
- 4) Follow the posted signs to the distribution area and request the amount you need.
- 5) You are ready to get your garden growing!

For more information about compost, call the Wastewater Treatment Plant at (843) 665-3240. For more information about mulch, call the City's Public Works Department at (843) 665-3236.



Flo-Gro, compost made by the City of Florence, is available for free at the City Wastewater Treatment Plant.

## HISTORIC JUNCTION GETS REFURBISHED

After detailed landscape work by the City of Florence, the Baroody Street curve adds more beauty and attraction to the original railroad junction of downtown Florence. The curve, which is underneath the Martin Luther King, Jr. overpass, was accented as requested by the Florence County Historical Society.

Florence City Council approved funding for the relocation of several historical markers and improvements to highlight the historic corner adjacent to Baroody Street. The old roadbeds were

re-established and a beautification project was undertaken along the curve of Baroody Street. The project included the construction of three planting beds complete with irrigation. Eight Bracken Magnolias were planted as a backdrop and three Trident Maples were used as focal plantings. A variety of small shrubs and areas of seasonal color complete the bed areas. The lawn area around the plantings has been over seeded with ryegrass to conclude the project.

**THE CURVE OF BAROODY STREET WAS REFURBISHED WITH ATTRACTIVE LANDSCAPING TO HIGHLIGHT THIS HISTORIC AREA OF FLORENCE.**



## CITY CONNECTING WITH CITIZENS

### CITYLINK: EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT FLORENCE AND MORE, 292-1622

The City of Florence recently introduced CityLink to help residents stay up to date about important city information. CityLink is an automated citizen information system that is designed to answer the most frequently asked questions about local government operations and services as well as provide expanded information to citizens and visitors. CityLink is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Citizens can listen to more than 250 informational messages as well as receive FAX-on-demand documents such as Business License applications and City Council Agendas.

### HOW TO USE CITYLINK:

- 1) Dial 292-1622.
- 2) Enter the 4-digit code that corresponds to the information you wish to hear. For example, the code for utility billing and payment information is 8100 and the code for park and recreation information is 6130. You can enter your code at any time and access up to 4 messages per call or dial 4636 (INFO) for an index.
- 3) To disconnect, simply hang up.

For a complete list of CityLink informational codes, brochures are available at City of Florence offices, the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce, online at [www.cityofflorence.com](http://www.cityofflorence.com), or by calling (843) 665-3113.

## FLORENCE HELPS RESIDENTS COLLECT SCRAP METAL

Twice a year, the City of Florence's sanitation trucks carry off your unwanted scrap metal. On designated pickup dates in the spring and the fall, City residents can place scrap metals items at the curb on their specific collection day. The City asks that the scrap metal be separated from all other debris.

Scrap metal items may include: bed rails and frames, bicycles, chicken wire, curtain rods, exercise equipment, fans, cabinets, iron furniture, ironing boards, large household appliances (please remove refrigerator doors and compressor first), pipes (not more than 6' lengths), ladders, lawn chairs and furniture (no glass), mail boxes, screen

doors (no glass), tire rims and disassembled sheds. Automobile scrap metal, metal building materials and paint cans are excluded from the collection.

This spring's scrap metal pickup was April 8-12 as a part of Keep Florence Beautiful. For more information about collection items or to get a copy of the pickup schedule

call the Public Works Department at **(843) 665-3236**. You may also call CityLink at **(843) 665-1622** or click on the sanitation division at [www.cityofflorence.com](http://www.cityofflorence.com).

## CITY COMMITTED TO SAFE, CLEAN DRINKING WATER

The City of Florence is pleased to report that the drinking water it supplied throughout the 2001 calendar year was of high quality and exceeded all state and federal health and safety standards.

"We are committed to providing a safe and clean supply of drinking water to our customers," said Drew Griffin, the City of Florence's Director of Public Works and Utilities. "Therefore,

it's extremely rewarding that the sampling data confirms that we are fulfilling our goals and commitment."

This June, every City of Florence water customer will receive a detailed Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) in the mail. The CCR will provide a detailed analysis of drinking water based on the City of Florence's most recent sampling results.

The City of Florence's goals include providing a safe and dependable supply of drinking water, improving treatment processes and protecting your water resources. Currently all water provided by the City's system is obtained from deep wells drilled into the Middendorf and Black Creek aquifers.

The City routinely monitors for constituents in its drinking water

according to state and federal laws. The policies, funding and management of the City of Florence's Public Utility Department are controlled by the City Council.

For more information about the Consumer Confidence Report or your City of Florence water quality, call Mack Maloch at **(843) 665-3271** or Forrest Whittington at **(843) 665-3236**.

### WATER QUALITY SAMPLING RESULTS 2001

Substances detected for the calendar year 2001. In all cases, the level of substances falls well below the state and federal safety regulations.

Contaminant	Violation	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL
Fluoride	No	range 0.72-0.93 0.93	ppm	4.0	2.0
THM	No	4 avg.	ppb	0	100
Lead	No	90th % tile 4.0	ppb	0	AL=15
Copper	No	90th % tile 0.1450	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3
Trichloro-fluoromethane		0.96	ppb	unregulated contaminant	

### DEFINITIONS FOR TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS:

**PPM:** Parts per Million: The equivalent of one penny in \$10,000 or one minute in two years.

**PPB:** Parts per Billion: The equivalent of one penny in \$10,000,000 or one minute in 2,000 years.

**AL:** Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.

**MCL:** Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**MCLG:** Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs provide a margin of safety.

**City of Florence**  
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