7.0 COMMUNITY FACILITIES

7.1 OVERVIEW

Public services and facilities allow the City to serve its citizens effectively. Some services that are provided by North Charleston include fire, police, recreation, and sanitation. Most of the services provided by the City require facilities as well. Public facilities are assets to the community as they provide not only a means to conduct business, but land and facility investment value as well. Some public services are provided by other governmental agencies such as libraries, which are provided by the counties. This chapter will focus on public services and facilities in four main areas: Education, Recreation, Safety, and Environmental.

7.2 MUNICIPAL FACILITIES

7.2.1 City Hall

At the forefront of public facilities in North Charleston is City Hall, which is located at 2500 City Hall Lane. The building is a multiuse facility that was built to streamline services for citizens. City Hall provides access to the following:

- Office of the Mayor
- City Council
- Building Inspections
- Code Enforcement
- Committees and Commissions
- Municipal Court
- Cultural Arts
- Economic Development
- Finance
- Fire Department
- Human Resources
- Parks and Recreation
- Police
- Planning and Zoning
- Charleston County Legislative Delegation
- Crisis Ministries

For more information on how the municipal government in North Charleston is divided, how to conduct business, or find contact information for the City of North Charleston, the website is a one stop shop with an abundance of information.
7.2.2 North Charleston Public Works

The Public Works Department is located at 5800 Casper Padgett Way in North Charleston. Public Works is responsible for engineering, planning, design, management, operations, construction, road maintenance, and disaster preparedness and recovery. The Department is divided into three divisions: Maintenance, Sanitation, and Equipment Maintenance, each are further divided into smaller subdivisions.

The Maintenance Division is responsible for streets, stormwater, horticulture, traffic signals and signs, and building maintenance. The maintenance Division is further subdivided into the Streets, Stormwater, Traffic Signals/Electrical, and the Building Maintenance Divisions. The Streets Division maintains city-owned streets. The Stormwater Division maintains about 120 miles of open drainage ditches, while also cutting and clearing another 35 miles of artery ditches. The Traffic Signals/Electrical Division is responsible for installation, maintenance and upgrades to traffic signals and signs. They also work on the electrical systems for public facilities. The Building Maintenance Division is responsible for the maintenance of all public facilities.

The Equipment Maintenance Division is responsible for the upkeep of all vehicles required to perform City functions. This includes both automotive and construction equipment.

The Sanitation Division is responsible for the removal of solid waste/trash for North Charleston. Recycling is handled by both Charleston and Dorchester Counties. Charleston County provides curbside service while Dorchester County has recycling drop off locations.

7.3 PUBLIC SAFETY

Public safety is an essential service that North Charleston provides to its citizens. North Charleston manages both Police and Fire Departments to ensure the safety of the citizens and visitors. The Police and Fire Departments have many different facilities and equipment that continually needs to be operated and maintained. Each county manages a Sheriff’s Department that helps improve safety in both incorporated and unincorporated jurisdictions. Emergency medical, emergency management and 911 services are all provided by the respective counties.
7.3.1 North Charleston Fire Department

The St. Phillip's and St. Michael's Fire Department first served the area of North Charleston in 1935. Two years later, in 1937, the North Charleston Fire Department (NCFD) was formed by merging St. Phillip's and St. Michael's. The NCFD was accredited by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) in 2018. Currently, there are only approximately 247 agencies worldwide that hold the CFAI accreditation. The CFAI helps to establish an agency-wide culture of continuous improvement and offers independent verification and validation of the NCFD operations. The NCFD also maintains an ISO Class 1 rating which is the highest possible award that can be given. Approximately 260 out of 46,200 fire departments nationwide have earned this ISO rating.

The NCFD works from a Community-Driven Strategic Plan and serves the citizens with fire suppression, emergency medical services, basic and technical rescue, hazardous materials mitigation, water-related emergency response, public fire and life safety education, fire investigation, community risk reduction, and emergency management and preparedness. The NCFD is staffed by over 250 personnel who respond to approximately 22,000 incidents every year. The Community-Driven Strategic Plan is the template that was built for the NCFD to follow in order to have continued success in the community.

The NCFD headquarters are located at North Charleston City Hall and provide administrative support to the eleven stations throughout the City. Figure 40 shows the station locations are distributed to minimize the response time needed to help save lives. Each facility has the capability to store a certain number of vehicles and those are distributed throughout the community. Currently there are eleven fire engines, one training engine, three tower trucks, one ladder truck, two rescue vehicles, one High Water Truck, and one fire and rescue watercraft.

7.3.2 Police Department

The North Charleston Police Department (NCPD) earned its national re-accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) in March of 2017 which marked a full decade of achievement since the original accreditation was earned in 2007. CALEA establishes and acknowledges that North Charleston is committed to excellence in leadership, resource management, and service delivery while encouraging community-oriented policing. CALEA provides training that helps improve decision making and resource allocation for a more efficient management system.

The NCPD is divided into the Office of the Chief of Police, Compliance and Standards, Administrative Services, Uniform Patrol Division, Investigations Divisions, and the Special Operations Division. While all divisions are public, the most outwardly facing division is the Uniform Patrol Division, which has 165 certified officers and 23 civilian personnel. The Uniformed Patrol Division is divided into three decentralized bureaus which are strategically placed around the City to better serve the citizens.
7.3.3 County Sheriff’s Departments
The municipal boundaries of North Charleston spans Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester Counties, each of which operates its own sheriff’s department. Neither Dorchester nor Berkeley Counties have a sheriff’s office that is located within North Charleston. However, the sheriff deputies provide service for their respective counties in cooperation with the NCPD. The Charleston County Sheriff’s Office is located in North Charleston at the corner of Azalea Drive and Leeds Avenue. The Sheriff’s Office also operates the Sheriff Al Cannon Detention Center which is also located in North Charleston at 3841 Leeds Avenue. The detention center can hold up to 1,917 inmates, but currently houses approximately 1,350.

7.3.4 Aviation Authority Police Department
The Charleston International Airport is situated in the geographic center of the City. North Charleston and is managed by the Charleston County Aviation Authority (CCAA). In 1990, the CCAA decided to create an Aviation Authority Police Department to help with public safety for air travelers. The CCAA has thirteen officers and maintains a position for a civilian records specialist. All officers are sworn in as South Carolina State Certified Class 1 law enforcement officers who enforce all South Carolina laws and the ordinances created by the CCAA within the boundaries of the airport. The agency also works very closely with the Transportation Security Administration, the Federal Aviation Administration, and all other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to ensure public safety.

7.3.5 Emergency Management/ Emergency Medical / 911
Emergency dispatch for both the North Charleston Police and Fire Departments occurs through the Charleston County Consolidated 9-1-1 Center and the Dorchester County E911 Dispatch Center. The City of North Charleston developed an emergency operations plan to be used by the City in the event of any natural or man-made disasters. The plan outlines policies and procedures for a coordinated response during events within the City. The Charleston County Emergency Operations Center is located at 8500 Palmetto Commerce Boulevard in North Charleston. City, County, State, and Federal partners work at the facility during events such as major hurricanes to improve coordination and safety. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) are provided to North Charleston citizens by Charleston and Dorchester Counties. The consolidation of services improves interjurisdictional coordination and increases response times for safety.

Figure 40: North Charleston Public Safety Facilities
7.4 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Primary through secondary education are operated by governmental entities in North Charleston. Post-secondary education options are both private and public ventures. This section focuses on the location of educational facilities within North Charleston.

7.4.1 Schools

North Charleston is served by the Charleston County School District (CCSD) and the Dorchester School District Two (DSD2). Planning Areas 1, 2, and 4 are served by CCSD while Planning Area 3 is served by DSD2. The public schools that either serve or are located within North Charleston are located in Figure 41. In addition, there are several private schools located within the City which are attended by both City and non-City residents (not pictured). The School Rating is a statewide multi variable report card that gauges the success or failures of both individual schools and the district as a whole. Enrollment numbers are provided by the State of South Carolina Department of Education.

Table 19 shows the schools in North Charleston, their enrollment and their rating.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DORCHESTER CO. ENROLLMENT</th>
<th>SCHOOL RATING</th>
<th>CHARLESTON CO. ELEMENTARY ENROLLMENT</th>
<th>SCHOOL RATING</th>
<th>CHARLESTON CO. ELEMENTARY ENROLLMENT</th>
<th>SCHOOL RATING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eagle Nest Elem.</td>
<td>794</td>
<td>Below Average</td>
<td>A. C. Corcoran Elem.</td>
<td>664</td>
<td>Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Dorchester Elem.</td>
<td>993</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Chicora School of Comm.</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Dorchester High</td>
<td>2244</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Creative Arts Elementary</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph R Pye Elem.</td>
<td>918</td>
<td>Average</td>
<td>Edmund A. Burns Elem.</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oakbrook Elem.</td>
<td>710</td>
<td>Below Average</td>
<td>Goodwin Elementary</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>Below Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oakbrook Middle</td>
<td>1034</td>
<td>Average</td>
<td>Hunley Park Elem.</td>
<td>515</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Oaks Middle</td>
<td>988</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory</td>
<td>Ladson Elementary</td>
<td>802</td>
<td>Below Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windsor Hill Elem.</td>
<td>895</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Lambs Elementary</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashley Ridge High</td>
<td>2263</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Windsor Hill Art Infused Elem.</td>
<td>895</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHARLESTON CO. MIDDLE ENROLLMENT</td>
<td>SCHOOL RATING</td>
<td>CHARLESTON CO. HIGH ENROLLMENT</td>
<td>SCHOOL RATING</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerry Zucker Middle School of Science</td>
<td>511</td>
<td>Below Average</td>
<td>Academic Magnet High</td>
<td>659</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Magnet Academy (MS+HS)*</td>
<td>456</td>
<td>Below Average</td>
<td>Daniel Jenkins Creative Learning Center</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morningside Middle</td>
<td>626</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory</td>
<td>Fort Dorchester High</td>
<td>2244</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwoods Middle</td>
<td>799</td>
<td>Below Average</td>
<td>Garrett Academy Of Technology</td>
<td>392</td>
<td>Below Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Oaks Middle</td>
<td>988</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory</td>
<td>Greg Mathis Charter High</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of the Arts (MS+HS)*</td>
<td>1105</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>North Charleston High</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer Park Middle</td>
<td>549</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>R. B. Stall High</td>
<td>1388</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 19: Schools that Serve North Charleston

*Total School Enrollment for All Grades

17. https://www.screportcards.com/
7.4.2 Colleges and Universities

North Charleston has one major university and one technical school within its boundaries. Charleston Southern University is the largest, four-year private university in South Carolina and is located adjacent to the I-26/US-78 University Boulevard interchange. Trident Technical College is an accredited two-year institution that is the largest technical and 3rd largest college in South Carolina. Trident Technical College is growing as they are building a new $80 million dollar aeronautical center to meet the needs of the advanced manufacturing industry in South Carolina. Both campuses provide localized access to furthering education for those who live in North Charleston.

Figure 41: North Charleston Educational Institutions
7.5 COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT

7.5.1 Libraries

Residents in North Charleston are directly served by the Charleston and Dorchester County Public Library Systems. Charleston County Public Library has three facilities that serve North Charleston residents which are shown on Figure 42. Note that the existing Cooper River Memorial Library, which opened in 1948, will be replaced with a new state of the art 15,000 square foot library. The new library will be located on adjacent land and named the R. Keith Summey North Charleston Library. The Dorchester County Library system does not have any physical structures in North Charleston however, there is a Bookmobile that travels throughout Dorchester County and stops within North Charleston.

7.5.2 Community and Senior Centers

Community and Senior Centers exist throughout the North Charleston community and provide benefits by having activities such as exercising, dancing, computer labs, crafts, senior cornhole, board/card games, and community meetings. Sporting activities are held such as boxing, table tennis, karate, basketball, and swimming. Figure 29 shows where the community and senior centers are located in North Charleston.
Figure 42: North Charleston Public Libraries, Community Centers and Senior Centers
7.5.3 Parks and Recreation

North Charleston's Recreation Department oversees twenty-one community centers, three senior centers, open spaces, youth sports recreation facilities, and parks in North Charleston. Figure 43 shows the existing and future parks and sports facilities, greenbelt properties, and protected lands within North Charleston. Each of these amenities provides residents with opportunities to socialize, recreate, educate and work together, fostering community. Specific examples of activities hosted at these facilities include:

- Dog Training
- Self Defense
- Table Tennis
- Gardening Clubs
- Dancing
- After School Programs
- Computer Labs
- Meal Programs
- Walking Clubs
- Arts and Crafts
- Farmers Markets
- Children's Camps and Programs
- Senior Activities

7.4.3 County Parks and Recreation

The Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission manages over 11,000 acres throughout Charleston County. The North Charleston Wannamaker County Park consists of 1,015 acres of woodlands, wetlands, meadows, playgrounds, dog parks, a water park, and other athletic amenities located on University Boulevard. The Cooper River Marina is operated by Charleston County Park and Recreation as well. It provides boat access to the Charleston Harbor with floating concrete docks and over 170 deep water slips for lease. The old Baker Hospital Site and the Ashley River Park site located off Dorchester Road will serve the community in the future.

The R.M. Hendricks Boat Ramp is located across from the intersection of Virginia Avenue and Lincoln Avenue and offers one lane access to the Cooper River, a playground, a picnic pavilion, and restrooms. The W.O. Thomas Country Farm Boat Ramp located at Bridge View Drive and Corporate Road. The W.O. Thomas Country Farm Boat Ramp has 2 lanes, 95 trailer parking spots, courtesy docs, pavilion, picnic tables, benches, restrooms and a fishing pier. The Ashley River is adopted by the Community as a Blue Trail and provides many recreational opportunities, such as kayaking and canoeing for the residents of North Charleston. The former King's Grant Golf Course will have eighty acres turned into a marsh park with a walking trail and paddlecraft launch into the Ashley River.

Dorchester County does not operate any parks in North Charleston. However, there are plans to build an 85 acre park on the northwestern edge of the North Charleston Planning area (along the Ashley River just northwest of Ladson Road) that will serve North Charleston residents.

Figure 43: North Charleston Recreational Facilities and Sites
7.6 UTILITY PROVIDERS

Utility companies provide residents and businesses of North Charleston with a means to power, water, wastewater, and natural gas. These are the basics needed to support life and to conduct business in North Charleston.

7.6.1 Water and Wastewater Service

Water and wastewater services are provided to North Charleston residents by Charleston Water Systems (CWS), the North Charleston Sewer District (NCSD), and the Dorchester County Water and Sewer (DCWS). CWS is a public utility that services the greater Charleston metropolitan region.21 The NCSD is a public wastewater utility that serves the majority of the City of North Charleston and surrounding areas.22 Dorchester County provides water and wastewater services to the North Charleston residents who live in Dorchester County.23

Figure 44 and Figure 45 show the water service area and wastewater service area in North Charleston, respectively.

7.6.2 Electric and Gas Utility

Electricity and natural gas are provided by Dominion Energy an energy company headquartered in Richmond, Virginia. Dominion Energy is a publicly traded company on the New York Stock Exchange, and it has a portfolio of approximately 31,000 megawatts of electrical generation, 106,400 miles of natural gas distribution, and 93,600 miles of electricity transmission and distribution. Dominion Energy has approximately 7.5 million utility and retail energy customers and maintains a staff of approximately 21,000.24 Their recent acquisition of the utility company South Carolina Electric and Gas (SCE&G) has increased the company’s portfolio and made them the dominant provider in South Carolina.

Santee Cooper is a state owned electric and water utility provider that operates mostly in Berkeley, Georgetown, and Horry counties. However, Santee Cooper does provide power to Joint Base Charleston in North Charleston. Santee Cooper maintains 5,146 miles of transmission and 2,967 miles of distribution lines throughout South Carolina. Transmission reliability rates at 99.9973%, which is an average of 11 minutes without power per year. Their distribution reliability ranks top 10 nationally as well.

22. https://www.ncsd.sc.gov/
Figure 44: Water Service Areas within North Charleston
Figure 45: Wastewater Service Areas within North Charleston