



The natural resources element of the comprehensive plan provides an inventory of significant physical and biological features of the landscape including consideration of the physical setting, climate, water resources, and environmentally sensitive areas. The purpose is to provide a base from which to guide policy decisions that are related to the use and management of these natural resources, especially as they pertain to the need for protection, restoration, and/or impact the intensity and types of permissible land uses.

Natural Resources

Summary of Key Findings

- Natural resources are an important asset to the community
- Natural resources present significant development constraints
- Congaree River and its tributaries are a defining characteristic
- Undeveloped wetland areas and bottomland hardwood forests provide critical habitat for endangered species
- 43% of the land area within the city limits is classified as low to medium intensity urban development
- Water quality impairments exist in the Congaree River and its tributaries
- Urban stormwater runoff and other causes of non-point source pollution are contributing to the water quality impairments

Issues and Opportunities

Water Quality. Water quality is an emerging issue for Cayce, especially in regard to compliance with the City’s Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System (MS4) permit requirements. In order to mitigate non-point source pollution issues, staff should continue to participate in regional water quality initiatives, support the development of watershed based plans, and encourage the use of low impact development (LID) techniques in new developments. The City should also identify opportunities for preserving and protecting riparian corridors (including along the Cayce Riverwalk), and work to reduce the number of private septic systems in areas that can be reasonably served with sewer.

Natural Resources as a Community Asset. Cayce has an abundance of unique natural resources. The City should continue to expand access to these amenities where appropriate, while also working with community partners to protect, conserve, and restore them. These assets should be marketed as a unique and defining characteristic of the City to promote growth and strengthen its position as a regional tourism destination.

Related Goals and Strategies

The key issues and opportunities identified below relate to the comprehensive plan goals listed below. Relevant objectives and strategies corresponding with these goals are summarized in Table 4.4.

- Goal # 5: Preserve, Protect and Promote Natural and Cultural Resources
- Goal # 4: Strengthen and Grow the Economy

Performance Metrics

To assist with monitoring progress towards achieving relevant goals and objectives, the City should collect and analyze the following data:

- Stormwater Outfall E. Coli Monitoring Data
- Water Quality Stakeholders - Number of partners engaged
- Low Impact Development - Number of new projects
- Sewer/Septic - Number of new sewer connections

Table 4.4: Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

Goal # 5: Preserve, Protect, and Promote Natural and Cultural Resources

Protect fragile land, critical habitat, and water resources

- Continue to actively participate in regional water quality initiatives to include the Lexington County Stormwater Consortium, Midlands Rivers Coalition, and the Three Rivers Watershed Stakeholder Group
- Support the collaborative development of watershed-based plans in impaired watersheds
- Support the use of low impact development (LID) and green infrastructure techniques for stormwater management through policy
- Review and update as needed the use of cluster/conservation development guidelines
- Identify riparian corridors for preservation, protection, and stream bank stabilization
- Reduce number of residents relying on private septic systems in close proximity to existing or planned sewer service
- Develop a street tree planting/canopy program and strengthen tree protection measures in land development ordinance

Ensure natural and cultural resources contribute to the tourism economy

- Continue to work with the River Alliance and other partners to develop and promote opportunities along the Cayce Riverwalk

Goal # 4: Strengthen and Grow the Economy

Promote Cayce as a regional tourism destination

- Develop a hospitality and tourism development master plan to identify growth opportunities, priority projects, and hospitality tax investment opportunities