



## CULTURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT

### *Element Goal*

*Support the continuation and expansion of activities and events that ensure the diverse cultural interests of the Town's residents and visitors, including outreach events directed at neighboring communities, and identification, preservation and protection of archaeological and historic resources.*

### 6.1: OVERVIEW

According to the South Carolina Local Government Comprehensive Planning Enabling Act of 1994, the Cultural Resources Element "should consider historic buildings and structures, unique commercial or residential areas, unique natural or scenic resources, archeological sites, educational, religious or entertainment areas or institutions, and any other feature or facility relating to the cultural aspects of the community". Many of the cultural aspects enjoyed by the Seabrook Island community are available within the town limits, while others extend to the rich cultural heritage of the region as a whole. This element identifies both the local and the regional cultural resources, and includes a review of the recreational activities, arts and cultural events, and other cultural opportunities available to the Seabrook Island Community. Also included is a review of the historic and scenic areas, as well as the cultural contributions of the local and regional commercial districts. For many who reside or visit Seabrook Island, it is the "culture" created by the opportunity for healthy recreation and social interaction that serves as the island's primary attraction.

## 6.2: BACKGROUND AND INVENTORY OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

### Recreational Activities

Recreational activities are abundant throughout, or within close proximity to, the Town of Seabrook Island. As referenced in the Community Facilities Element of this Plan, many of the community facilities on Seabrook Island providing recreational amenities to Seabrook Island residents are maintained and operated by either the Seabrook Island Property Owners Association (SIPOA) or the Seabrook Island Club (SIC). These types of facilities include beaches, community pools, golf, tennis, equestrian activities, walking trails, bike paths, and recreation centers. As a resort community, these recreational amenities play an important role in the culture of Seabrook Island. While access to many of these amenities require membership or a Seabrook Island Club Amenity Card, these cards are available to property owners, residents, guests and visitors to the island and can be obtained at the Amenity Office located outside the security gate.

The Seabrook Island Club. The Seabrook Island Club facilities include the Island House, Beach Club, Equestrian Center, Racquet Club and golf courses. The Island House includes both a formal dining restaurant overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, and a casual dining restaurant overlooking golf courses, as well as a golf pro shop and a 30,000 square foot special events venue. The Beach Club includes two oceanfront pools, an cafe, gift shop and open air pavilion style dining. The Equestrian Center is a 22-acre facility containing forty-two stalls, miles of trails and an experienced, dedicated staff. Residents of all ages and riding experience can enjoy beach and scenic trail riding all year long. The Racquet Club contains 15 clay tennis courts, pickleball courts, a clubhouse and pro shop. The Racquet Club offers lessons and clinics, as well as Junior Tennis Programs. The Crooked Oaks Golf Course



designed by Robert Trent Jones, Sr., and the Ocean Winds Golf Course designed by Willard Byrd, wind through ocean, marsh and maritime forest surroundings. Coaching sessions and private lessons are available from a staff of PGA gold professionals.

The Seabrook Island Club also provides six unique indoor and outdoor venues for weddings, receptions, corporate retreats and other special events, including catering and state-of-the-art audio visual equipment.

SIPOA Amenities. Amenities offered to property owners and guests through SIPOA include the Lake House, Oyster Catcher Community Center and pool, crabbing dock, boat ramp, and nature trails. The Lake House is a 27,500 square foot community facility overlooking Palmetto Lake. It was constructed in 2009, and includes a fitness center, indoor and outdoor pools, library, and meeting rooms. In addition to fitness equipment, the Lake House hosts many popular wellness classes and events, and is home to many special interest groups that bring together Seabrookers with common interests. The Oyster Catcher Community Center includes meeting space and an outdoor pool. Additional SIPOA facilities include:

- A floating crabbing and fishing dock located in Cap'n Sams Creek for fishing and crabbing;
- A basketball court and volleyball court;
- A boat ramp where canoes, kayaks and small boats can be launched;
- A children's playground; and
- Four nature trails and a boardwalk.

Beach Access. Perhaps the most enticing natural and cultural resource would be Seabrook Island's three and a half miles of ocean and riverfront beach, one of the longest and widest expanses of beach shoreline in the coastal Carolinas. The Town and SIPOA cooperatively manage Seabrook Island's beaches, and land adjacent to the Atlantic Ocean and portions of the

North Edisto River Inlet. The original design of Seabrook Island included a full set of resident/visitor beach access points with boardwalks from the parking areas and bicycle racks onto the beach. Each of these access entry points include signage, trashcans and dispensers for dog waste bags, and both the boardwalks and the associated amenities are maintained by SIPOA. In addition, there are many additional access points from individual properties that are privately maintained by the respective property owner.

The Town of Seabrook Island's Comprehensive Beach Management Plan, more fully described in the Natural Resources Element, meets the policies and objectives of the State Beachfront Management Act and provides for the long-term preservation and management of Seabrook Island's coastline. A primary objective of this Plan is "the continuation of a beach access system for Seabrook Island residents and authorized guests that includes twelve access points that are well marked and well maintained by the property owner's association".



North Beach

Photo Source: [www.discoverseabrook.com](http://www.discoverseabrook.com)



As described in the Discover Seabrook Amenity Guide, each of Seabrook Island's beaches has its own personality. For example, Pelican Beach (aka Sunset Beach) is characterized by soft waves, slow current and great views of evening sunsets, while North Beach (aka Atlantic Beach) is large and deep, with rolling dunes and sunrise views. Between these two beaches is The Sands at the Beach Club, which includes sunrise and sunset views, oceanfront pools and a full service bar and restaurant.

St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center. St. Christopher is an intentional Christian ministry of the Diocese of South Carolina. It is located on over 314 acres of beach, maritime forest and undisturbed salt marsh on Seabrook Island. While it started as a summer camp for disadvantaged boys in 1938, St. Christopher has grown into a full-fledged, year-round conference facility. Summer Camp still continues in the summers and for over thirty years the Barrier Island Environmental Education Program has provided an amazing outdoor education experience for school children during the school year.

St. Christopher is, at its core, a ministry. The ministry maintains a complete conference center for both large and small groups as well as individuals seeking personal retreats. The conference center is fully equipped to provide lodging, meeting rooms, worship spaces, audio-visual support and excellent dining, all in a stunning location. A primary function of the conference center is to host ministry events, and St. Christopher has gifted staff who are ready to serve in leading musical worship, biblical teaching and preaching, and prayer ministry.

Other Recreational Activities. Many residents and visitors to Seabrook Island take advantage of the rental options readily available to enjoy the outdoors. Bike, canoes, kayaks, paddleboards and electric low-speed vehicles can all be rented by the day, and beach chairs, umbrellas and beach carts can



Bohicket Marina  
Photo Source: [www.bohicket.com](http://www.bohicket.com)

be delivered to residences within the community. For more adventurous outings, the Charter Office located at the Bohicket Marina and Market is a one stop shop for sailing tours, fishing charters, stand-up paddleboard lessons and rentals, and even a kid-friendly pirate adventure cruise on the Black Ghost Pirate Ship.

### **Arts and Cultural Events**

Seabrook Island residents and visitors have ample opportunity to enjoy local and regional arts and cultural events unique to the Lowcountry.

Local Arts and Cultural Events. There are a number of recurring local cultural events that take place on or near Seabrook Island. Seabrook Island entities sponsor many of these events, including:

- An Easter Service, Egghunt and brunch;
- The Annual Betty Cannon Golf Tournament;
- Mother's Day Celebration;
- Annual Racquet Club Championships;
- Island-wide Spring Fling and BBQ;



- Memorial Day Weekend Charleston Symphony Orchestra Concert;
- Father's Day Steak Night Dinner;
- Summer Art Show at The Lakehouse;
- Island-wide Independence Day Celebration;
- Alan Fleming Tennis Tournament;
- Island-wide Fall Halloween Festival;
- Veteran's Day Charitable Golf Outing;
- Thanksgiving Buffet;
- Annual Turkey Trot (5K Race);
- Tree Lighting at The Lakehouse; and
- Annual New Year's Eve Event

The commercial entities of Bohicket Marina and Freshfields Village provide an impressive list of annual local cultural opportunities, including:

Bohicket Marina

- Annual Oyster Roast
- Annual Dolphin Slam Tournament
- Backpack Buddies Chili Cook-Off
- Billfish Tournament
- Bohicket-Charleston 5K/10K Run
- Family Fall Festival
- Holiday Festival/Boat Parade/Sunset & Santa
- "Kids Fish"
- "Kick It at Bohicket" Marina

Freshfields Village

- Fall Sip & Stroll
- Farmer's Market
- Memorial Day Weekend Concert Series
- Music on the Green
- Spring Festival Weekend
- Starlight Cinema

Other Local Venues

- Charleston Cup – Steeplechase (Stono Ferry)
- Charleston Symphony Orchestra (Kiawah Island)
- Holiday Kid's Festival & Photos w/ Santa @ Freshfields

Regional Arts and Cultural Events. Nearby Charleston truly provides the opportunity to experience world class arts and culture. Food is central to Charleston and is served up in high-end restaurants, outdoor cafes, and local hot-spots throughout Charleston. Even the many Charleston food trucks bringing their unique eats to festivals and special events enjoy name recognition. A full spectrum of live music and performing arts are available year-round on stages throughout the Charleston Region, including:

- Charleston Gilliard Center
- Charleston Music Hall
- Charleston Performing Arts Center
- Charleston Pour House
- Daniel Island Performing Arts Center
- Flowertown Players
- Music Farm
- North Charleston Coliseum and Performing Arts Center
- PURE Theater
- Sottile Theater
- Theater 99
- Woolfe Street Playhouse

Many annual festivals and special events showcase the rich cultural identity of the Charleston Region and include:

- Annual Lowcountry Oyster Festival (Boone Hall Plantation)
- Charleston Fashion Week
- Charleston Restaurant Week
- Charleston Wine and Food Festival
- Cooper River Bridge Run (10K race)



- Festival of Houses and Gardens
- Flowertown Festival
- Highwater Festival
- Holiday Festival of Lights
- Lowcountry Cajun Festival
- MOJA Arts Festival
- Piccolo Spoleto Festival
- Southeastern Wildlife Expedition
- Spoleto Festival USA
- Volvo Car Open Tennis Tournament
- World Grits Festival

Downtown Charleston also boasts numerous art galleries, museums, the South Carolina Aquarium, world-class shopping on King Street, and a vibrant and safe nightlife that flourishes throughout the year.

### **Cultural Opportunities through Volunteerism, and Social and Special Interest Groups**

Volunteerism. As noted on the Discover Seabrook Volunteer Opportunities webpage, “part of any great community is its volunteer force”. This webpage lists Seabrook Island volunteer opportunities, complete with a link to the volunteer organization website (if applicable), the volunteer tasks associated with the organization, the overall mission of the organization and whether the organization/volunteer duties are located on or off the island. From the webpage, community members can also add volunteer organizations and become a contact. Currently, the following volunteer organizations are listed on the volunteer webpage ([www.discoverseabrook.com/live-here/volunteer/](http://www.discoverseabrook.com/live-here/volunteer/)):

- Adopt-a-Highway;
- Backpack Buddies – Seabrook Island
- Barrier Island Free Medical Clinic
- Begin with Books
- Charleston Friends of the Library
- Cystic Fibrosis Foundation – SC Chapter

- Darkness to Light
- Edmondston-Alston House
- Exchange Club
- Fields to Families
- Hospice of Charleston
- Johns Island Regional Library
- Lowcountry Orphan Relief
- Meals on Monday
- Mt. Zion Elementary School Volunteer Program
- One80 Place
- Our Lady of Mercy Community Outreach
- Pet Helpers
- Reading Partners
- Respite Care Charleston
- Sea Island Habitat for Humanity
- Seabrook Island Turtle Patrol
- Stono Blessing Basket
- Sweetgrass Garden

SIPOA Special Interest Groups. Another Discover Seabrook webpage is dedicated to Seabrook Island’s social and special interest groups. The long list of groups available to Seabrook Island community members truly provide something for everyone. As noted on the webpage, “there are groups for those with a penchant for games (such as Mahjongg Mavens and the Social Bridge club), nature (such as the Seabrook Island Natural History Group, Garden Club and Turtle Patrol), reading (such as the Seabrook Book Club and Exploring Books) and art (such as the Artist Guild, Seabrook Island Photography Club and the Seabrook Stitchers)”. The “SIPOA Special Interest Groups Contact Information” is available from the webpage, and includes the Group names and contacts ([www.discoverseabrook.com/live-here/social-groups/](http://www.discoverseabrook.com/live-here/social-groups/)).



### Archeological Sites and Historic Places

While no sites on Seabrook Island were identified to be of historic significance in any of the three historic surveys, several locations/structures in close proximity to Seabrook Island were identified as historically significant. These historic locations and structures are listed on the National Register of Historic Places:

- Bass Pond Site, Kiawah Island (Pre-historic).
- Johns Island Presbyterian Church, Johns Island (1719);
- John Seabrook Plantation Bridge, Wadmalaw Island (1782);
- Fenwick Hall Plantation, Johns Island (1787);
- Arnoldus Vander Horst House, Kiawah Island (1802);
- Rockville Historic District, Wadmalaw Island (1860);
- Moving Star Hall, Johns Island (1917);
- The Progressive Club, Johns Island (1963);

## 6.3: CULTURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT GOAL

### *Element Goal*

*Support the continuation and expansion of activities and events that ensure the diverse cultural interests of the Town's residents and visitors, including outreach events directed at neighboring communities, and identification, preservation and protection of archaeological and historic resources.*

### Cultural Resources Element Needs:

- Preserving and protecting the known historic areas of the Island;
- Ensuring that the cultural interests and needs of the Town's differing population components are met by providing a diversity of programs; and
- Supporting the continuation and expansion of cultural events and programs in the Town, including outreach events directed at neighboring communities.
- Improve coordination between the groups associated with cultural resources, including the Town and SIPOA Special Interest Groups. A good example of this is the continued coordination and cooperation between Camp St. Christopher and the Seabrook Island Natural History Group.



## **6.4: CULTURAL RESOURCE ELEMENT STRATEGIES AND TIMEFRAMES**

The Town should undertake the following strategic actions in support of the Vision and Goals of this Plan. These implementation strategies will be reviewed a minimum of every five years and updated every ten years from the date of adoption of this Plan.

1. Encourage the development of programs and services that improve the delivery of cultural activities to all of Seabrook Island and its visitors.
2. Identify options for the Town to develop a cultural resource opportunity on undeveloped property outside the gates.
3. Promote cultural events using the Town's accommodations tax revenue that is allocated to the advertising and promotion special fund.
4. Promote the creation of an arts and cultural events council.