

# Media Release



**bluffton**  
HEART OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

April 16, 2018

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(Lowcountry Stormwater Partners)

(Facebook): Lowcountry Stormwater Partners

(Facebook): Town of Bluffton Government

18th Annual May River Cleanup is Saturday, April 28

Town of Bluffton representatives are asking residents to help clean up the May River, her shores, nearby streets and parks of the Bluffton Historic District, Saturday, April 28, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

“This annual event is a wonderful way to honor our May River as we join together with our neighbors first thing on a Saturday for a cup of coffee and a fun morning of working together to protect Bluffton’s most cherished natural resource.” Mayor Lisa Sulka said.

**May River Cleanup Highlights:**

- Volunteers will meet at Oyster Factory Park located at the end of Wharf Street.
- Boats and kayaks are needed to assist with cleanup efforts (Please arrive at 8:30 a.m. to allow time for setup).
- Limited kayaks will be made available by Marshgrass Adventures for interested volunteers. If you would like to reserve a kayak for the cleanup, please contact Marshgrass Adventures at 843-684-3296.
- Coffee will be provided by Bluffton Starbucks.
- All supplies including gloves, bags, vests and water will be provided by the Town of Bluffton, American Rivers, Palmetto Pride, Keep Beaufort County Beautiful and Beaufort County Solid Waste & Recycling.
- Personal supplies such as sunscreen, bug spray and water will be provided.
- Snacks and lunch will be provided by the Hardeeville Wal-Mart. In addition, Be Green Packaging will be providing compostable dishware in an effort to support the event’s waste reduction goal.

In addition to the Cleanup, several organizations, such as Lowcountry Stormwater Partners and Port Royal Sound Foundation, will have educational displays about how to improve water quality in our local watersheds, including the May River Watershed. Some volunteer groups will have specific tasks designed to reduce watershed pollution.

Bryan McIlwee, the town’s director of engineering, said each year this event grows in the number of participants and organizational partners.

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“It is very rewarding to see students, scout groups, civic organizations, businesses and nearly 20 official partners join the Town to make a positive impact on the May River and the streets and areas surrounding it,” McIlwee said. “This is truly a collective community effort.”

Event Partnerships include:

- The Levi’s Outlet will be working to mark storm drains with a “No Dumping, Drains to Waterways” tile along Buckwalter Parkway. Storm drain marking offers an excellent opportunity to further educate the public about the link between our storm drain system and the water quality of our local rivers, including the May River. If interested in learning more about this opportunity please contact Beth Lewis, stormwater technician, via email [blewis@townofbluffton.com](mailto:blewis@townofbluffton.com).
- The Town of Bluffton is also partnering with Michael C. Riley Elementary School to host the 5th Annual School Participation Challenge. Students and their families will have the opportunity to take part in the Cleanup and waste reduction efforts provided by i2 Recycle. The Rotary Club of Bluffton and Coastal Kingdom will be partnering to assist the Town with the School Participation Challenge and the winning grade level participants will be given a reward at the end of the school year.
- Corner Perk will be donating a special gift to each event volunteer.
- Bluffton Police Department and SC Department of Natural Resources officers will be also be on the May River to ensure the safety of the Cleanup’s volunteers.
- Continued support of the Town’s two annual Cleanups is provided by Adams Outdoor Advertising, the Port Royal Sound Foundation, Savannah Riverkeeper, and the Beaufort County Stormwater Utility.

## Event Has Waste Reduction Goal:

In the last 17 years, volunteers, community partners and Town staff members have removed more than 20 tons of litter, debris, discarded appliances and abandoned boats from the May River and Bluffton Historic District.

Two years ago, the event added a waste reduction goal. Together with i2 Recycle, a local recycling business, and Experience Green, a local environmental non-profit, the Town again has made ongoing efforts to reduce event waste. This goal encourages the reuse and recycling of suitable materials. Volunteers are encouraged to take part in the sorting efforts during the event.