

Media Release



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HEART OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

December 20, 2016

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Pine Ridge Lagoons Retrofit Reduces Stormwater Runoff to May River

The Town of Bluffton recently completed the Pine Ridge retrofit project. Several lagoons in the Pine Ridge neighborhood were retrofitted in order to reduce the stormwater volume which enters the May River.

The retrofit project, which involves building or modifying something which was previously constructed, included installing an irrigation system using Pine Ridge lagoons as the water source to irrigate within the Pine Ridge neighborhood, the open space within McCracken Circle and Buckwalter Parkway. Piedmont, South Carolina-based Willow Tree Landscaping retrofitted the lagoons and Savannah-based Thomas & Hutton performed the engineering design work.

By using stormwater to irrigate, the stormwater volume from nearby developments will be reduced, thus decreasing potential pollutants from reaching the May River.

This project also brought the Pine Ridge community into compliance with the Town's Stormwater Ordinance, which was revised in 2010 to include volume control as a water quality standard.

"This project accomplishes many objectives for the Town, the Pine Ridge neighborhood and, of course, the May River," Bryan McIlwee, the town's director of engineering, said. "Pine Ridge, which was built prior to the 2010 ordinance, is now in compliance with current standards. The Town appreciates Pine Ridge's partnership in this project."

The project also significantly reduces the amount of water and pollutants which enter the headwaters of the May River.

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“This project infiltrates more than 651,000,000 gallons of water annually, significantly reducing stormwater runoff which enters the May River,” Town Councilman Dan Wood said. “This is an example of how improving one area of the town can greatly influence the results of the overall water quality for the May River.”

A United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)/Clean Water Act/319 grant funded \$290,000 of this approximately \$400,000 project. Town of Bluffton Stormwater Utility Fees funded the remainder. The \$290,000 United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)/Clean Water Act/319 grant was awarded and administrated via the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.