

Johns Island Task Force (JITF)

Who we are and what we do

6 April 2021

What is the Johns Island Task Force (JITF)?

- Founded in 2013 in part because of perception that “people who speak for Johns Island are vocal about what they oppose but there’s no consensus or vision on what they’re for”
- A community based group that advocates for the diverse and vibrant culture and environment of Johns Island
- Participants include...
 - Residents of the Sea Islands
 - Wide-range of local non-profits and governmental entities
 - We are a “big tent” group
- Not affiliated with any governmental entity
- Patterned after the Ace Basin Task Force

Participant Organizations
ACE Basin Task Force
Berkeley Electric
Center for Heirs' Property Preservation
Charleston City Council
Charleston City Planning Department
Charleston County Planning and Zoning
Charleston County Public Works
Coastal Conservation League
Johns Island Community Association
Johns Island Council
Kiawah Conservancy
Kiawah Island Community Association
Kiawah Planning and Zoning
Lowcountry Land Trust
Open Space Institute
Preservation Society of Charleston
Progressive Club
Santee Cooper
Seabrook Island POA
South Carolina Conservation Bank
St John's Water Company
Town of Kiawah Island
Town of Seabrook Island

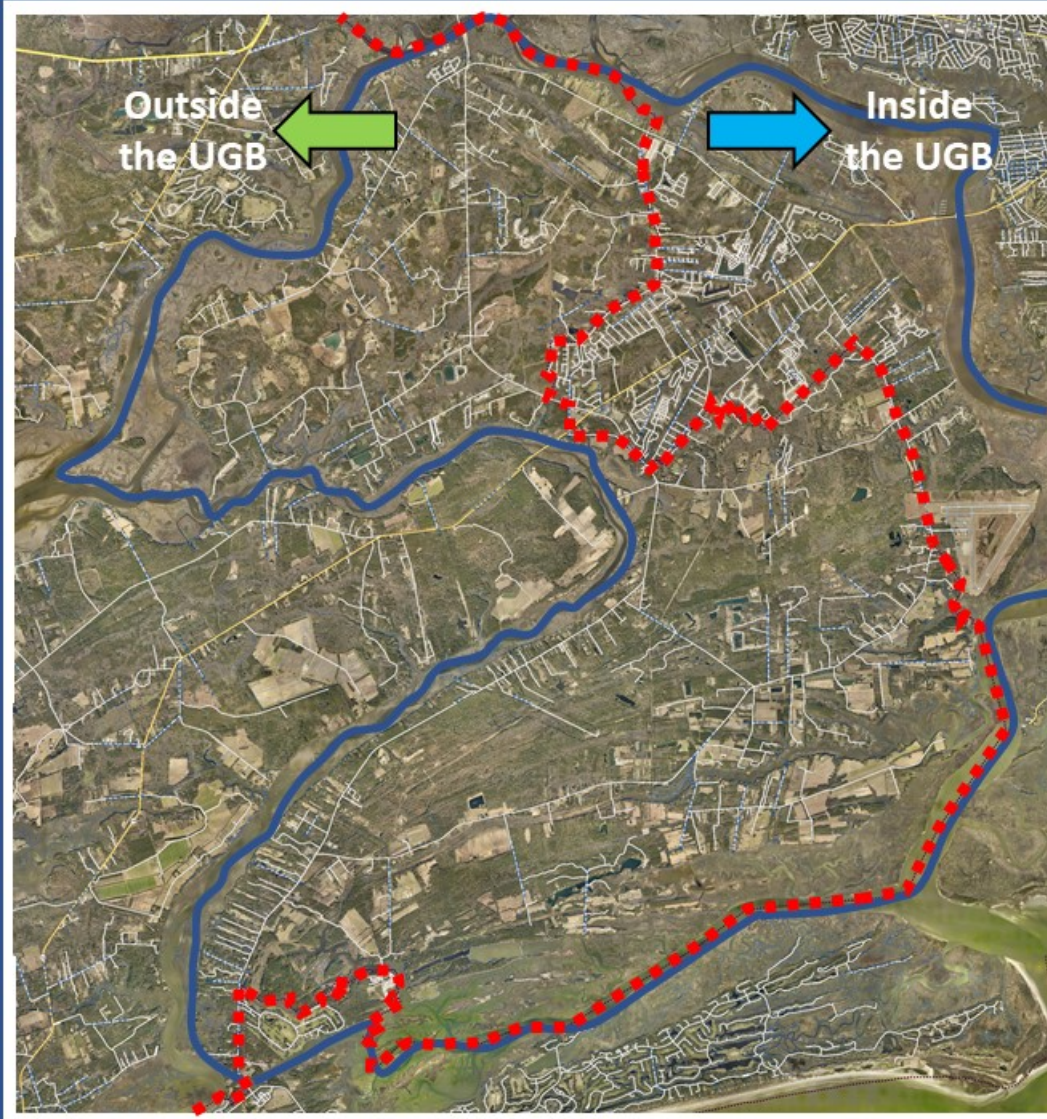
JITF Guiding Principles

- Johns Island is both rural and urban
- It's about what we are for, not what we are against
- Recognize that Johns Island is not monolithic ... it is a collection of “neighborhoods”, each with its own concerns



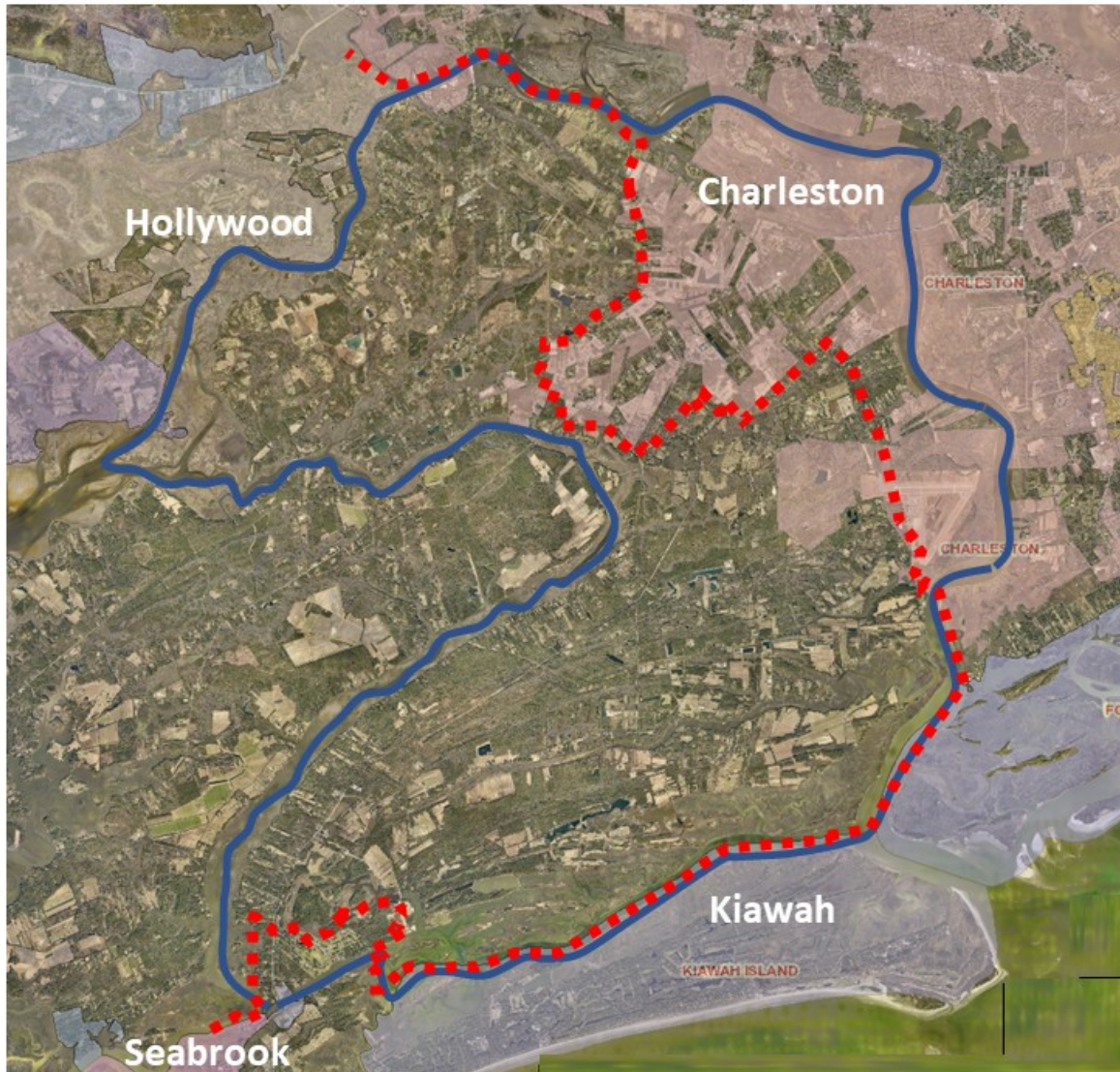
- Collaborate with other Johns Island community organizations to provide a unified voice to local governments on land use issues
- Find common cause with Kiawah, Seabrook and Wadmalaw Islands
- Controversial road projects only detract us from making progress on other important issues
- Participants are free to voice their own opinions on issues

The Urban Growth Boundary (UGB)



- The UGB is key to understanding Johns Island
- The UGB is basically a line on a map agreed to by local governments
 - Inside the boundary zoned for urban and suburban uses
 - Outside the boundary zoned for rural uses
- 21% of Johns Island is within the UGB
- The City parcels are primarily within the UGB
- The sewer boundary generally includes everything inside the UGB or within the city limits

Governmental Jurisdictions on Johns Island



Other

- Charleston County Aviation Authority
- Charleston County School District
- Corp of Engineers
- SCDOT
- St John's Fire District

Task Force Strategic Objective

- Objective: Ensure Johns Island remains both rural and urban for generations
- How?
 - Fortify the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB)
 - Ordinances, zoning, sewer service, conservation corridors
 - Maintain the rural character of the area outside the UGB
 - Zoning, “neighborhood” advocacy, transportation infrastructure
 - Preservation of heirs’ property, cultural landmarks, farmland, tree canopies
 - Public access to marshes, creeks and rivers
 - Ensure the area inside the UGB maintains a town and country feel
 - Zoning, transportation infrastructure
 - Ensure all of Johns Island is resilient to water events
 - Zoning, stormwater manuals, comprehensive plans, Dutch Dialogues

Working with the Barrier Islands



- We have a lot of common ground
 - Not adding 1000's of homes around Freshfields
 - Protecting your front door (Betsy Kerrison) from turning into the entrance to Hilton Head
- We will not agree on all issues, but we can discuss our differences with civility and respect

Recent and Current JITF Efforts

City of Charleston

- Ordinances to start implementing the Dutch Dialogues
- City Plan → Ordinances
- Johns Island Restoration Plan to Improve Flood Resiliency
- Stormwater manual Special Protection Areas (SPAs)
- Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) as an ordinance
- Subdivisions and PDs: Wooddale, River Run

County of Charleston

- Maybank Highway Overlay
- Main Road Overlay
- Zoning and Land Use Regulations (ZLDR) update
- Zoning change requests
- Greenbelt Program

Other Governmental Entities

- Charleston County School District (CCSD) new elementary school on Johns Island
- Charleston Water System (CWS) sewer line extension on River Road by JZI
- Charleston County Aviation Authority (CCAA) JZI Flight Safety

Other

- Johns Island Land Protection Strategy
- Plow Ground Conservation Corridor
- Betsy Kerrison Conservation Corridor
- Public access to marshes, creeks and rivers
- Santee Cooper cross-island transmission line
- Wetlands mitigation
- GrowFood Carolina relocation
- Angel Oak Preserve
- Engage barrier islands governments and non-profits

Johns Island Coalition



- Organized to provide a unified and more effective voice to City and County governments regarding Johns Island land use issues
 - JICA: Johns Island Community Association
 - JIC: Johns Island Council
 - JITF: Johns Island Task Force
- This coalition is not an additional organization, but rather a way of amplifying our individual voices

<https://www.johnsislanders.org/jicoalition>

Johns Island ... both **rural** and **urban**

