



Council
Retreat

Public Works Department Major Goals

- ▶ To ensure the protection of the residential character of the community
 - ▶ Increased safety along Kiawah Island Parkway and Beachwalker Drive, as well as around the municipal complex
 - ▶ Improved solid waste collection and disposal (beach, roadways, residential, and commercial units)
 - ▶ Maintaining natural look and feel of Kiawah consistent with design and landscape behind the main gate.

Defining the Public Works Department

- ▶ The overarching role of the Public Works Department is to procure and implement resources to maintain, improve, and sustain town assets, infrastructure, and public services that are essential to the public health and welfare of the community.
- ▶ How is this achieved?
 - ▶ Progressive planning initiatives
 - ▶ Community input and involvement
 - ▶ In-house personnel
 - ▶ Contract management

Defining the Public Works Department cont.

- ▶ How is the role of the department implemented into the municipal structure of the Town of Kiawah Island?
 - ▶ Identifying aspects and services that can be improved upon to positively impact the quality of life for residents. Also, continuing to research new services and methods to current services to create more pleasant and enjoyable experiences.
 - ▶ Address issues that are expressed by residents. Is this an isolated incident? Are other residents impacted? Is there a long-term solution to this issue?
 - ▶ Potentially creating a platform to log issues as well as ideas from the community. Use this to track recurring problems and themes with specific residents and across the island.
 - ▶ Working with The Town's current and future vendors to deliver a product or service that is consistent with the high expectations set by town staff.

Role of the Public Works Assistant

- ▶ The Public Works Assistant is a brand new position. This gives us the opportunity to define this role not just based on the roles and responsibilities of the department, but also using the strengths and experiences brought on board with the new employee.
 - ▶ Information Technology
 - ▶ Facility and Grounds Maintenance
 - ▶ Contract Management

How will the Department Function?

With a Public Works Assistant position, the department is now able to operate with much more efficiency.

The current vision for the department is to establish two key functions:

Strategic Planning

Operational Management

Initiatives: Beachwalker Drive Leisure Trail

Over the past few years, pedestrian and cyclist safety has been a growing concern for residents that use the leisure trail adjacent to the roadway.



Town staff contracted with an outside firm to conduct a study of the road and bike path usage, as well as identify areas along the path that can be improved for safer travels.

High visibility crosswalks at
community ingress/egress

Traffic calming

Rerouting the bike path to
not be impacted by tree
roots

Increased vegetative
buffers between leisure trail
and roadway as needed

Initiatives: Beachwalker Drive and KI Parkway Intersection

In the past year, the Kiawah Island Parkway has seen increased volume of vehicles traveling the road every day. Some causes include the pandemic, increased contractor and commercial activity, and island wide growth among other factors.

This increased volume has brought to light the stress that gets put on the parkway, specifically at the intersection of the KI Parkway and Beachwalker Drive.

There is significant traffic back up during peak hours in the morning and afternoon.

Increased traffic volume has subsequently decreased safety for pedestrians and cyclists wanting to cross different parts of this intersection.

Intersection Plan

- ▶ How can the intersection at Beachwalker Drive and the KI Parkway be reworked to alleviate traffic back up and reinstate safety for pedestrians and cyclists?
- ▶ The Town has contracted with a third party to conduct a study of vehicular and pedestrian traffic at this intersection.
- ▶ Currently data is being collected to better understand the current activity at this intersection, and how we can not only plan to correct these issues now, but to also think about any and all future development that will in some way impact this intersection.

Who Is Involved?

The Town of Kiawah
Island

The Kiawah Island
Community
Association

Kiawah Island
Partners

The General Store

Kiawah Island Real
Estate Office

Beachwalker
County Park and
communities along
Beachwalker Drive

Working Together



This is a project that will have a lot of moving parts, and will need coordination among all parties impacted.



Preliminary public workshops have been conducted to gather opinions, insights, and ideas from the community and other stakeholders on how this intersection can improved from both logistical and safety standpoints.



We still have some data to collect, but we plan on having some conceptual designs ready to bring back to council this year.

Initiatives: Solid Waste

With The Town's role being to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the community, we manage the commercial and residential solid waste contract for the island.

Along with residential solid waste collection, The Town offers supplemental waste disposal on Kestrel Court as well as trash receptacles along the beach at all public boardwalks.

Services at Kestrel Court and on the beach have posed different challenges for proper disposal and collection.

Kestrel Court Solid Waste Disposal

- ▶ Improper disposal of solid waste at the Kestrel Court site has been an ongoing issue. However, in the past few years this site has seen increased stress at the beginning of the pandemic and major holidays serving as a catalyst for misuse of this site.
- ▶ In an effort to mitigate this issue, The Town improved signage outlining rules, violations, and alternate sites for users to properly dispose of solid waste.
- ▶ Though there was a notable decrease of misuse with the improved signage, the issues were not completely resolved. The Town is currently involved in a plan to redesign this site to improve one's experience and also increase capacity to meet the new demands of a growing island.

Beach Solid Waste Collection

- ▶ The beach on Kiawah is arguably The Town's largest asset and should therefore continually monitored to maintain it's natural beauty.
- ▶ Improper disposal and collection of waste can tarnish this beauty in an instant.
- ▶ Throughout the peak season, there is a constant need to remove broken and unwanted items left leaning against the receptacles as well as respond to complaints about the receptacles overflowing in the middle of the day.

Beach Solid Waste Collection

- ▶ How do we prevent these calls from coming in?
 - ▶ Increase Receptacles?
 - ▶ Increase number of pick ups?
 - ▶ Continue to spot check and conduct isolated response?
 - ▶ Remove receptacles from the beach?

Initiative: Look and Feel of Kiawah Island

- ▶ The Town owns what can be called the “driveway onto the island” which is the Kiawah Island Parkway inclusive of the roundabout.
- ▶ It is important that this area is not only well maintained, but gives off the unique look and feel that is experienced on the rest of the island.
- ▶ This look and feel that is desired can be described as naturally maintained. This intentional natural look is achieved through predominately native plant selection and an experienced maintenance crew that understands our landscape goals.
- ▶ Town staff continues to work with the maintenance contractor to protect the integrity of this newly developed landscape on the parkway through all seasons.

Look and Feel of Kiawah Island

- ▶ Along with the parkway, it is necessary that the Municipal Complex showcase the same desires for landscape.
- ▶ The Town is currently working on a revitalization project that will increase the number of native plant material and mitigate safety concerns for visitors coming to Town Hall.
- ▶ The end goal of this project will be to have a continuity of landscape from the municipal complex to the parkway creating a portrayal of the rest of the island from our facilities.