

Stormwater Management for the May River

***Presented by:
Town of Bluffton***

MAY RIVER WATERSHED

September 13, 2007

Legend

 May River
Watershed
Boundary

JURISDICTIONAL

-  Bluffton
-  Hilton Head Island
-  Hardeeville
-  Beaufort County
-  Jasper County

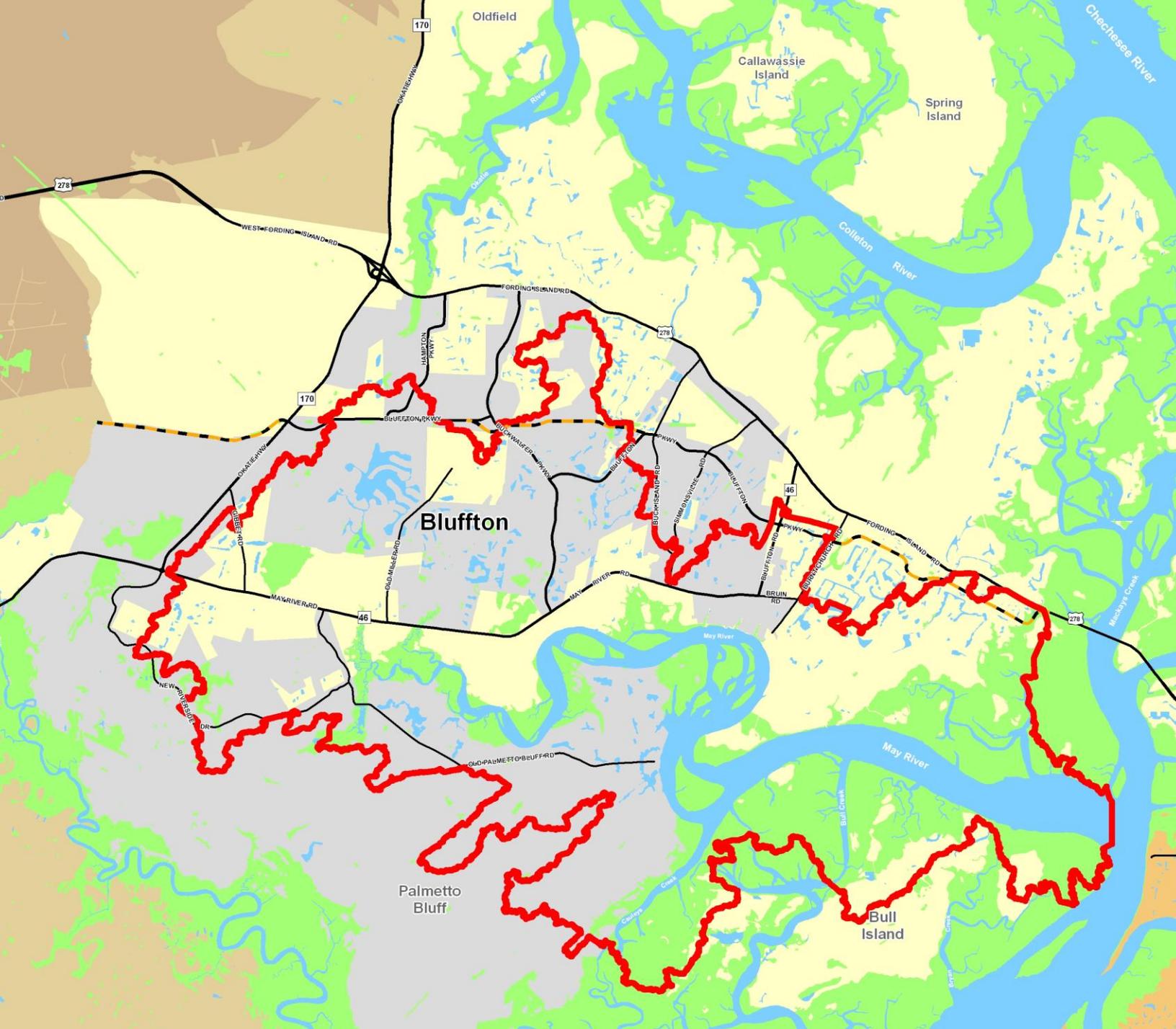
TRANSPORTATION

-  Roads
-  Interstate
-  Bluffton Parkway
(Proposed)

HYDROLOGY

-  Marsh
-  Water

Data Source:
Thomas & Hutton Engineering Co.





What is Stormwater runoff?

Many of our water pollution problems are due in large part to pollutants that are washed off the land as stormwater runoff

Where does it go?

When it rains, it drains...

The water entering storm drains goes directly to our local waters. It is NOT treated first.

What's in it?

Trash & Plant Debris

Clogs drains and pipes

- increases maintenance costs
- potential flooding problems



Blocks streams & creeks

- habitat destruction
- potential flooding problems



Organic material

- plant decay reduces oxygen levels in water

Sediments



Land erosion

- decreases water clarity
- habitat destruction
- buries shellfish & fish eggs
- sediment can carry contaminants

Fecal Coliform Bacteria

What are fecal coliform bacteria?

- Naturally-occurring, non-threatening bacteria present in human or animal waste.
- Indicates the presence of other disease-causing bacteria and viruses in water.



Nutrients

Nutrients are needed by plants to grow.
However, too many nutrients can cause problems.

Algal blooms

- decreases oxygen in the water
- unpleasant odors
- ugly surface scums
- toxic to fish & other animals



Oil & Grease

Harmful to aquatic animals

- Coats fish gills
- Prevents oxygen from entering water
- Toxic to fish & other animals



Toxic Organic Compounds & Metals



Harmful to aquatic animals

- toxic to fish & other animals
- sores and tumors in fish

Health Hazard

- contaminates drinking water



How does stormwater quality affect you?

Water pollution can cause:

- Unpleasant odors
- Disease
- Toxicity
- Habitat degradation
- Fisheries decline
- Recreation limitations



Clean Water

What is the Town of Bluffton doing?

Stormwater Management Ordinance of the Town of Bluffton

Keeping pollutants out of the water isn't just a good idea – it's the law.

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Water Quality Monitoring

Public Outreach

You may be polluting if you:

- ❖ *Allow wash water from an engine or other mechanical equipment or from car washing to enter a storm drain*
- ❖ *Spill anti-freeze or other chemicals without cleaning it up*
- ❖ *Allow materials or wastes stored outside to leak on the ground*
- ❖ *Do not clean up after your pet*
- ❖ *Clear land without taking steps to prevent erosion*

Everybody's
Business

What can you do?

Make your home...

The

SOLUTION

TO STORMWATER

POLLUTION!



Clean Water



*Everybody's
Business*

Yard & Garden Care

DON'T...

- ✗ Use weed 'n' feed products.
- ✗ Use too much fertilizer

DO...

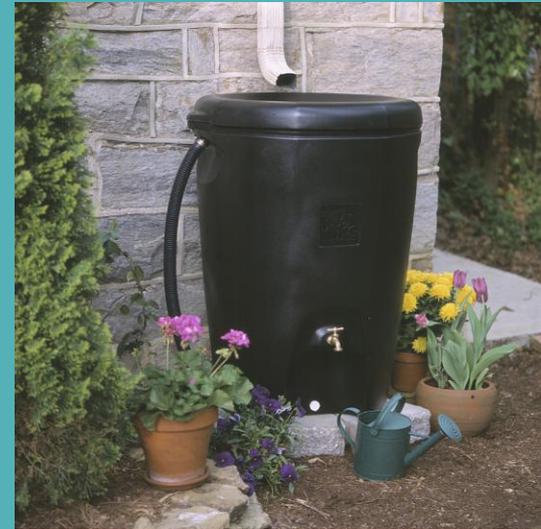
- ✓ Sweep up leaves and place them in yard waste containers.
- ✓ Sweep up dirt and return to gardens.
- ✓ Choose plants that resist pests and disease.
- ✓ Collect stormwater in a rain barrel.
- ✓ Plant rain gardens.
- ✓ Make sure irrigation system works properly.



Drainage

DO...

- ✓ Replace impervious surfaces like sidewalks, patios, and driveways with more pervious materials like grass, gravel, pavers, or stone.
- ✓ Review your home for stormwater handling.
- ✓ Collect stormwater runoff in rain barrels and use it for yard and garden watering.



What's *WRONG* with this picture?



What's RIGHT with this picture?



For more information...

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Or

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