



INTRODUCTION

The community facilities element examines the status and needs of existing infrastructure in the Town of Awendaw. This infrastructure is vital to the Town's economy and quality of life.

GOVERNMENTAL FACILITIES AND DEPARTMENTS

There are a number of community facilities in the Town of Awendaw that provide services for the residents including; fire protection, parks and playgrounds, planning, zoning, and various regulatory services designed to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare of the public.

Town Hall

The Awendaw Town Hall is located at the apex of Doar and Seewee Road in the central part of the Town. Originally a school, the building was built in 1915 and later destroyed in a fire. The current building was built in 1939 and also housed the Awendaw School. This building and its site serves numerous functions for the community, including; municipal office for the Town, office for the Charleston County Sheriff's Department, office for the South Carolina Birds of Prey, a polling site for Charleston County Election Commission, a branch of the Charleston County Public Library and a meeting location for various civic groups.

Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

There are two Charleston County Sheriff's Department substations that serve the Town of Awendaw. They are housed in the Awendaw Town Hall and in the East Cooper Services Center

Public safety, fire protection and emergency medical services are all a part of emergency preparedness. Charleston County provides emergency preparedness services to the Town of Awendaw.

Fire Protection

The Town of Awendaw is located in the Awendaw Fire District of Charleston County. There are three Charleston County fire stations located in the Awendaw Fire District. Station #1 is located just north of the old fire station, just past the Greater Zion Church. Station #2 is located on Maxville Road near the intersection of Seewee and Doar Road. Station #3 is located on Highway 17 across from St. James-Santee Elementary, at the northern limit of the Awendaw area. These stations have both paid and volunteer fire fighters. The United States Forestry Service aids the Town in fighting wildfires in the



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Town of Awendaw. The town is currently installing a public water system in the lower part of the community, which will include fire hydrants. These hydrants should greatly enhance fire-fighting capabilities.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Two units of the Charleston County EMS, Medic #11 and Medic # 6, serve the Awendaw area. Medic # 6 is located at 10064 Highway 17 North, near the intersection of Highway 17 and Highway 45. Medic #11 is located at the County Services Center at 1189 Iron Bridge Road. The Firefighters in the Town are certified first responders in emergency situations and will arrive first at the scene.

Water Supply

Due to the declining quality of the drinking water in the Awendaw area, the Town is in the process of creating a public water system. The Town has drilled two wells and is in the process of laying pipes for the system. The system will run throughout parts of the Town including Seewee Road and Doar Road. The water system is slated to be complete in the spring of 2005 and will be owned and maintained by the Town of Awendaw.

Sewage System and Wastewater Treatment

Currently there is no public sewer system in the Town of Awendaw. Properties are served by individual septic systems. Due to the high water table, shallow septic tank systems consisting of 6" to 12" mounds are commonplace.

Parks and Playgrounds

There are two publicly maintained playgrounds in the Town of Awendaw. The first is a playground containing juvenile equipment located on the grounds of Town Hall. The Town Hall facility also includes a picnic shelter and a basketball court. The second is the Thompson Hill Playground, which is currently being expanded to include a baseball park, more basketball courts and more playground equipment. In addition, the First Baptist Church of Awendaw is developing several fields for community use.

Waste Management

Household waste in the Town of Awendaw is disposed of at one of two sites containing dumpsters; Site #1 on Maxville Road and Site # 2 on Highway 17 North near McClellanville. Residents may also deposit recyclable materials at these sites. Some businesses within the Town have contracts with private companies to remove their waste.



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Library

The Town Hall facility now houses a satellite library for the Charleston County Public Library that is open upon demand during normal business hours. Outside of Awendaw, the nearest library for the residents of Awendaw is the McClellanville branch of the Charleston County Public Library. Residents of the southern part of the Town may be closer to the new Mount Pleasant branch of the library located on Mathis Ferry Road.

Boat Landings

There are two public boat landings in the Town of Awendaw: Moore’s Landing – located off of Bulls Island Road, and Buck Hall Landing – located off of Highway 17 North. The United Methodist Retreat Center also operates a semi-public boat landing on site.

TRANSPORTATION

Roadways

Road projects - There are currently no new road projects in the Town of Awendaw. Highway 17, from Doar Road to Jenkin’s Hill Road, was recently repaved. SCDOT is scheduled to repave Seewee Road and part of Doar Road this year.

Traffic Counts

Highway 17 is the major thoroughfare for the residents of the Town of Awendaw. Table 7.1 shows the traffic counts for Hwy 17 in three separate locations.

Table 7.1: Traffic Counts for Awendaw Area				
Location	2000	2001	2002	2003
Hwy 17 from SC 41 to 15 Mile Landing/Seewee Rd.	25,100	25,850	24,700	27,500
Hwy 17 from Tibwin Rd. to SC 45/S Pinckney St.	9,000	8,200	9,200	9,300
Hwy 17 from Tibwin Rd. to SC 45/S Pinckney St.	9,100	7,900	9,100	9,400

Source: South Carolina Department of Transportation

Mass Transit

Public and private social service agencies offer limited transit services within Charleston County for specific population groups, including seniors and the disabled. RTMA currently serves the Town of McClellanville but does not provide service to the Town of Awendaw.



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Rail

The closest Amtrak rail line to the Town of Awendaw is located in the neck area of Charleston.

Air

The closest major airport to Awendaw is the Charleston International Airport located in nearby North Charleston. The airport continues to grow and attract new airlines. The East Cooper Airport also offers a paved runway for small aircrafts.

Hike/Bike Trails

The Palmetto Trail is a federally designated Millennium Legacy Trail and is a project of the Palmetto Conservation Foundation. At completion the trail will include 425 miles of bicycling and walking paths in South Carolina. Currently 225 miles of the Trail are open to the public; including sections in the Town of Awendaw.

The Town of Awendaw boasts the Awendaw Connector and the terminus of the Palmetto Trail. The Awendaw Connector connects the Swamp Fox Passage to the terminus of the trail. The terminus of this state trail is located on the Atlantic Intercoastal Waterway at the Buck Hall Recreational Area.

UTILITIES

Electric and Natural Gas

Berkeley Electric Cooperative is the major provider of electricity in the Town of Awendaw. The South Carolina Electric and Gas Company provide service to some Town residents.

Telephone Service

McClellanville Telephone/ TDS provide phone service to the Awendaw area.

TABLE 7.2: TYPE OF HEATING FUEL USED BY HOUSEHOLD (2000)

Utility Gas	50%	Bottled Gas	9%
Electric	36%	Fuel Oil/Kerosene	3%
Wood	1%	Solar	0%
None	0%	Other	0%

Source: 2000 US Census



HEALTH FACILITIES

The citizens of the Town of Awendaw have access to the St. James-Santee Rural health Program, Inc. This program is located on Tibwin Road near McClellanville. The center employs Board Certified Physicians and offers the following service: Adult Care, Pediatric care, Immunizations, Prenatal Care, Laboratory, Family Planning, X-ray, Cervical Cancer Screening, Breast Cancer Screening, Emergency On-Call Services, Pharmacy, and Dental.

These facilities are connected to EMS and police through the county E911 dispatch center.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Pre-school students living on and above Seewee Road attend the Awendaw Head Start Program at the Awendaw Community Center (old Porcher Elementary School). School-age students in this area attend St. James-Santee Elementary School, McClellanville Middle School or Lincoln High School.

The school age students living below Seewee Road attend Charles Pinckney Elementary School. Older students living in this area attend Thomas Cario Middle School and Wando High School.

Awendaw Community Center offers activity programs for the elderly residents of the Awendaw area.

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

Religious Organizations

The following is a list of the churches in the Town of Awendaw:

- 1) First Seewee Missionary Baptist Church
- 2) Mt. Nebo AME Church
- 3) St. Mark FBH Church
- 4) St. Pauls Southern Methodist Church
- 5) Ocean Grove United Methodist Church
- 6) Awendaw Baptist Church
- 7) Mt. Olivet PH Church



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Goals, Policies and Strategies

Goal: Provide community facilities and services needed by the town's population.

Policy	Implementation Strategies	Suggested Schedule/Responsibility
<p>A. The Town will evaluate and plan for the provision of community services needed for the health, safety and welfare of its residents on an ongoing basis.</p>	<p>1) Identify and prioritize road improvement projects within the town's boundaries to reduce generation of dust, flooding, and congestion.</p>	<p>Ongoing/ Town Council</p>
	<p>2) Work together as a community to proactively monitor potential for development, and potential impacts of, I-73.</p>	<p>Ongoing/ Awendaw Community</p>
	<p>3) Evaluate the potential for private developments to connect to the existing public trail systems.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
	<p>4) Investigate drainage problems and define methods to address these situations (i.e. Simmons Hill Road area).</p>	<p>Staff</p>
	<p>5) Support efforts of the fire and EMS departments to update equipment and enhance staffing to ensure response capabilities meet the needs of the growing population.</p>	
	<p>6) Update the emergency operations plan for consistency with Charleston County's and to re-evaluate need for supplies and shelter space.</p>	<p>Ongoing/ Town Council, Charleston County Planning Emergency Response Official, Town staff</p>
	<p>7) Seek funds to restore Town Hall.</p>	
<p>B. The Town will support efforts of other agencies to provide community facilities and services that contribute to the community's quality of life.</p>	<p>1) Continue to support efforts of local schools to provide educational resources for all residents regardless of age.</p>	<p>Ongoing/ Town Council and the Awendaw community</p>
<p>2) Continue to cooperate with the County library system by continuing to operate Town Hall branch library.</p>		
<p>3) Insure that there are no regulatory barriers to the provision of local utilities while insuring that utility structures do not adversely impact significant historic and natural areas of the town.</p>		
<p>4) Support efforts of the RTMA to serve Awendaw.</p>		
<p>5) Encourage other agencies to provide community facilities.</p>		