

In-depth PSD inventory finds zero lead pipes in water system

An extensive inventory conducted over the course of several years found no lead piping in the PSD water distribution system. The undertaking was done as part of a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requirement. The PSD used extensive research and field observations to verify pipe materials. Decades-long, routine sampling of the water supplied by the PSD has found no lead in the tap water provided by the PSD. The inventory effort was led by PSD Water Quality Supervisor Sarah Hickman and PSD Project Manager Pete Schuelke, both of whom have been recognized by statewide water industry associations as outstanding water professionals.

“We are extremely pleased with the results of our water system pipe-material verification and inventory, and extremely proud of our entire team that worked diligently on completing this effort,” said PSD General Manager Pete Nardi. “The quality and safety of our drinking water is the PSD’s top priority, 24/7/365. Our lengthy track record of providing quality drinking water is a testament to the dedication and professionalism of the men



and women who work on the complex systems that produce, treat, and monitor our drinking water. It also is the result of the ongoing support of our customers, our Board of Commissioners, and our island, which is our privilege to serve.”

The PSD used a combination of field observations of pipe materials on both utility and customer water lines, as well as extensive research of building records, in verifying pipe materials and completing the inventory ahead of an October 2024

U.S. EPA deadline that was required of all public water systems the PSD’s size and larger.

The inventory found no known lead piping on the customer side of PSD water meters. The inventory was not an inspection of all private plumbing inside homes and businesses.

Any PSD customer wishing to have their water sampled for lead is welcome to call the PSD at **(843) 681-5525** or email info@hhpsd.com.

PSD working on three major projects

Hilton Head PSD is constructing a set of projects that will create water supply and resiliency for generations to come!

1 Expansion of the PSD’s Reverse Osmosis Drinking Water Treatment Facility Capacity, from 4 million gallons a day of drinking water to 6 million gallons a day. The project includes drilling an additional groundwater well for the plant and adding an emergency power generator.

2 Constructing a second Aquifer Storage & Recovery Well. The recovery well stores 260 million gallons of drinking water in the island’s groundwater aquifer system in the winter

months of lower demand, and then re-treats and distributes 2 million gallons a day of drinking water in the spring and summer months of higher demand. It is an incredible asset for hurricane recovery.

3 Construction of a new Water Booster Pumping Station. The station will replace pumps that have been in service for more than 40 years. It will provide pressure for the drinking water distribution system.

These projects are funded in part by a \$10-million grant from the State of South Carolina and a \$1-million grant from Beaufort County.



The PSD’s current Aquifer Storage & Recovery Well facility. The PSD is working to construct a second ASR Well.

Four Commission positions decided in November election

In the November 2024 general election, four PSD District Commission seats were up for grabs. The winners were:

DISTRICT 2: Stuart Bell

DISTRICT 3: Patti Soltys

DISTRICT 4: Jerry Cutrer

DISTRICT 6: Andy Paterno

Commissioners are elected to four-year terms.

In the November 2026 general election, PSD Voting Districts 1, 5, and 7 will be up for election.

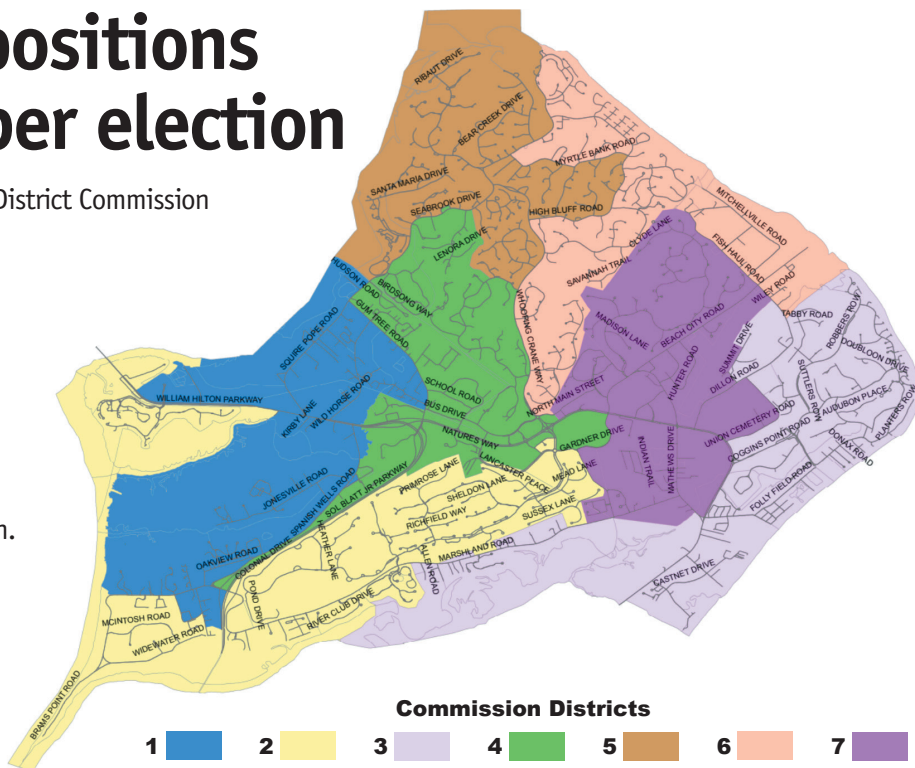
Hilton Head PSD Voting Districts & Commissioners:

DISTRICT 1: Ibrahim Abdul Malik;

DISTRICT 2: Stuart Bell; DISTRICT 3: Patti Soltys;

DISTRICT 4: Jerry Cutrer; DISTRICT 5: Michael Marks;

DISTRICT 6: Andy Paterno; DISTRICT 7: Frank Turano



Project SAFE needs your help

The Community Foundation of the Lowcountry's Project SAFE (Sewer Access for Everyone) Fund continues to be a critical program helping to meet Hilton Head Island's housing needs, particularly for our workforce and for our Historic Gullah-Geechee Neighborhoods. SAFE was recognized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in 2017 as an outstanding example of public-philanthropic partnerships.

Project SAFE, launched in 1999, has been a key to connecting hundreds of income-qualified homeowners in the Historic Neighborhoods to the public sewer system, ending their reliance on failing septic systems.

The need for Project SAFE will continue for years to come, particularly

To donate, scan this QR code:



as it serves a vital role in the island's overall workforce housing effort.

We hope you will support Project SAFE, and our islander families, with a donation to the fund. Donations to Project SAFE are tax deductible.

Make checks out to: Project SAFE

Mailing Address: Community Foundation of the Lowcountry, P.O. Box 23019, Hilton Head Island, SC 29925

Donations also can be made to Project SAFE at www.cf-lowcountry.org.

HOW TO FIND YOUR HOME'S SHUT-OFF VALVE

Do you know where your whole-house shut-off valve is? Everyone in your home should know where it is.



The main valve (usually with a wheel-type handle, but it could also be a lever) is normally located in its own box after the PSD meter box on your side of your water service line to your home or business, or located just outside the point where your water service line penetrates the foundation of your house. Please do not attempt to open PSD meter boxes. If you're having trouble locating your shut-off valve, contact the PSD and we can help you.

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