

CHAPTER 8

Community Facilities

This chapter reviews the community infrastructure and services that support Calhoun County's residents. This review organizes the county's facilities and services into four categories:

- Public Safety,
- Public Schools and Educational Facilities,
- Public Works, and
- Parks and Recreation.

As a rural county with little suburban development, the county has a limited range of community facilities, infrastructure and services. The county also has limited financial resources to invest in upgraded facilities and employees to operate and maintain additional facilities. These factors make it critical to identify key community facilities needs that will maintain and improve the quality of life and economic opportunity for the residents of the county.

Population growth is not predicted to be a major factor in expanded needs for facilities and services, with growth expected to add about seven percent to the County population by 2045. This level of growth by itself has limited impact on staffing and facility needs.

Public Safety

Existing Conditions

Public Safety services in the county include 11 fire departments, three Emergency Medical Services stations, the Sheriff's office, and an Emergency Management Agency. The Town of St. Matthews and Town of Cameron provide police service within their city limits, but details of those services are not covered in this county plan. Map 8-1 shows Public Safety facilities in the county, and the district boundaries for fire departments and EMS stations. Table 8-1 summarizes public safety staffing levels.

Table 8-1
Calhoun County Public Safety Services

Public Safety Unit	Total Staff	Full Time Certified Deputies	Part Time Certified Deputies	Full Time EMTs and Paramedic	Part Time EMTs and Paramedic	Volunteer Fire Fighters	Responders per 1000 Population
Fire	213	-	-	3	-	209	15.0
Sheriff	45	29	3	-	-	-	2.3
EMS	44	-	-	29	15	-	3.1
Total	302	29	3	32	15	209	20.4

Sheriff's Office

Calhoun County Sheriff's Office is staffed by 29 full time certified deputies, three part time deputies, and 13 communications staff. The Sheriff's office is centrally located on Old Belleville Road on the north side of St. Matthews. Calhoun County major crimes and rates are presented in Table 8-2, and compares these with statewide incidents and rates.

Table 8-2
Calhoun County and Statewide Crimes, 2021

Month	Calhoun County Crimes	Statewide Crimes	Calhoun County Rate	Statewide Rate
Murder	0	566	0.00	1.09
Sexual Battery	9	2,515	6.35	4.85
Aggravated Assault	49	21,580	34.59	41.57
Robbery	3	2,639	2.12	5.08
Larceny	180	98,216	127.07	189.22
Breaking and Entering	54	19,453	38.12	37.48
Motor Vehicle Theft	54	15,650	38.12	30.21
Arson	0	723	0.00	1.39

Note: Crime Rates per 10,000 population

Source: South Carolina State Law Enforcement Division, Crime in South Carolina Annual Report 2021

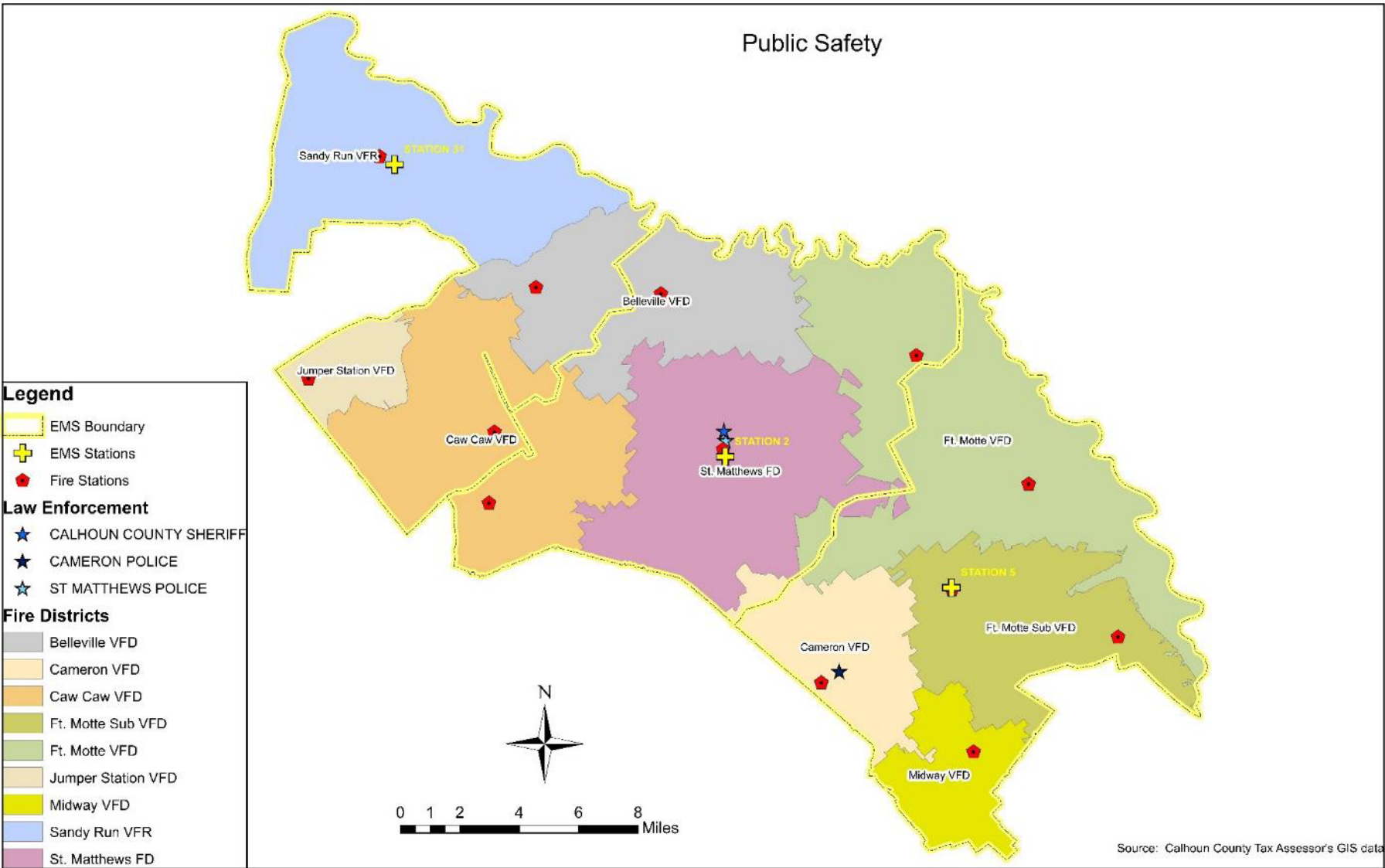
Fire Departments

Calhoun County is served by eight fire departments with 11 fire stations. Seven of the eight departments are staffed entirely by volunteer fire fighters, while the St. Matthews Fire Department has three full-time firefighters in addition to a volunteer staff. Oversight and administration is provided by one full-time fire coordinator. County-wide, 209 volunteer firefighters staff the fire departments. Staffing details are shown in Table 8-3.

Annual budget for the fire district is approximately \$750,000. About \$130,000 of this budget goes to the towns of Cameron and St. Matthews to provide service in the unincorporated areas of the county surrounding the two towns.

For funding purposes, the county's fire departments are now consolidated into a single county-wide district, governed by a County Fire District Commission. The commission is composed of one member from each fire district and one at large member, and the fire coordinator reports to the commission.

Map 8-1



Improved funding provided nine new tanker trucks in 2017 and an additional seven trucks have been funded by grants. Three new fire engines have been ordered, but will not be completed and delivered until late 2024, and will replace engines that are approaching 30 years old. A total of 44 trucks are operated by the fire districts: five are over 30 years old, 13 trucks are 20 to 29 years old, 14 trucks are 10 to 19 years old, and 12 trucks are less than 10 years old.

Response times outside of the St. Matthews district are impacted by the all-volunteer status of the departments, especially during normal 8 to 5 weekday work hours. When a call is dispatched, a driver must leave his regular workplace, travel to the fire station, start the appropriate truck and drive to the scene, often setting up by himself and beginning to fight a fire while waiting for additional volunteers to arrive.

As a rural county, brush fires and grass fires, many caused by discarded cigarettes on the roadsides, account for a substantial portion of 911 calls. Brush trucks are an important and frequently-used part of the vehicle fleet.

Table 8-3
Calhoun County Fire Department Staff

Fire Department	Total Employees	Full Time Emergency Responders	Volunteer Emergency Responders
Belleville VFD	16	-	16
Cameron VFD	17	-	17
Caw Caw VFD	23	-	23
Creston VFD	15	-	15
Fort Motte VFD	15	-	15
Jumper VFD	14	-	14
Lone Star VFD	15	-	15
Midway VFD	11	-	11
Sandy Run VFD	45	-	45
St. Matthews Fire Dept	26	3	23
Stumphole VFD	15	-	15
County Fire Coordinator	1	-	-
Total Fire Departments	213	3	209

Emergency Medical Services

Three EMS stations serve Calhoun County: Sandy Run, Headquarters in St. Matthews, and the Creston station. Total staffing is 44, with 29 full time and 15 part-time responders. The operation is fully staffed at present, in spite of a persistent shortage of paramedics and EMTs statewide and competition from surrounding counties with higher wages for staff. The EMS director attributes this to efforts to maintain a positive work environment.

The Sandy Run station has the highest call volume due to proximity to I-26. Crashes on I-26 and nursing home calls are the top generators of EMS calls in the county. Table 8-4 presents EMS call volume trends.

Table 8-4
EMS Call Volumes

Month	Years				Total	Percent Change
	2019-2020	2020- 2021	2021- 2022	2022- 2023		
October	297	306	322	386	1,311	30%
November	264	268	300	330	1,162	25%
December	322	330	359	361	1,372	12%
January	311	310	331	351	1,303	13%
February	271	242	286	309	1,108	14%
March	286	298	248	384	1,216	34%
April	251	313	317	332	1,213	32%
May	238	329	314	356	1,237	50%
June	279	342	329	392	1,342	41%
July	341	343	357	380	1,421	11%
August	289	398	388	396	1,471	37%
September	317	330	356	333	1,336	5%
Total	2,583	2,905	2,926	3,233	11,647	25%

Source: Calhoun County EMS Director

One ambulance is in service at each of the three EMS stations at all times. A total of eight ambulances are available for service, which ensures availability for maintenance and spare vehicles for incidents with multiple patient transport needs. Additional response capability is provided by four quick response vehicles (QRVs) that are assigned to the EMS director, operations manager, trainer, and supervisor. QRVs improve response time, and have all the capabilities of an ambulance except the ability to transport patients.

Non-emergency medical calls to 911 can be an issue, as some residents have mobility impairments or lack transportation to access care. A community paramedic program is being implemented to proactively check on individuals who are frequent callers but whose medical needs often are less than urgent.

Future Needs

Sheriff's Office

Additional deputies are needed to strengthen presence in court, schools and to supplement uniformed patrol shifts. Retention and recruitment of deputies is an ongoing issue that can be addressed by maintaining comparable salary and benefits with surrounding counties. The patrol vehicle fleet is aging and a strategy and funding for on-going fleet modernization is a priority.

The top facility need for the department is to develop a training facility to maintain certifications and to provide a live-fire range for firearms training.

Fire Departments

Overall operations and response times for the all-volunteer Calhoun County fire departments would be most improved by the addition of three full-time firefighters, according to the county fire coordinator. Working 8 to 5 weekdays, which is the period when response times are longest currently, full-time fire fighters would rotate among the ten volunteer fire departments, with one fire fighter positioned at one of the fire stations in each EMS district. Equipment maintenance and readiness would be improved and response times could be lowered by as much as several minutes. The improvement in response time would also benefit EMS operations, especially in cases where a vehicle fire or structure fire is involved.

As noted above some fire engines are approaching 30 years old, which increases maintenance costs and can impact availability of the vehicles. An additional four to six new engines will be needed in the next several years to maintain reliable and cost-effective fire service.

Other priorities to improve fire service are 800 MHz radios for all fire apparatus and personnel, a replacement plan and schedule for bunker gear and for self-contained breathing apparatus, and continued upgrades to the fire training facility.

Emergency Medical Services

The addition of three full-time fire fighters would have the greatest benefit to EMS response, according to the EMS director.

As construction has begun on I-26, call volume for crashes on the interstate is expected to increase for the next several years. A fourth ambulance stationed near US Highway 21 and Caw Caw Highway (SC Highway 6) would improve response times, especially for interstate crashes.

Public Schools and Educational Facilities

Existing Conditions

Public Schools

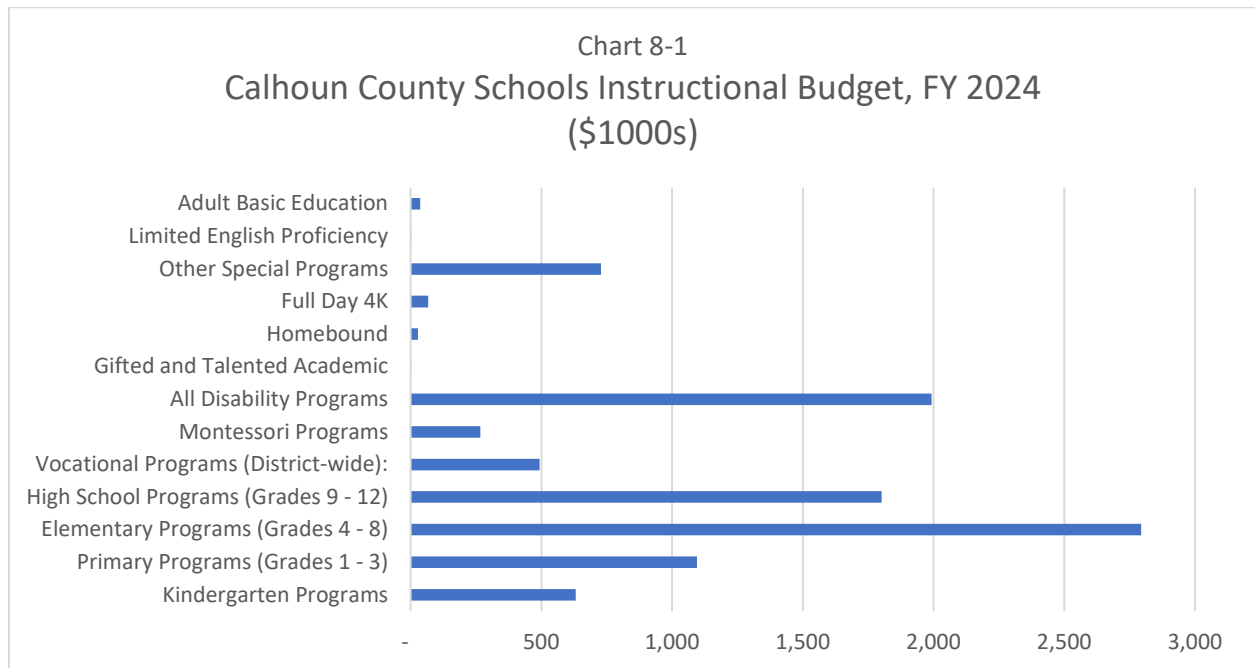
Calhoun County Public Schools (CCPS) operates two K-8 schools – Sandy Run and St. Matthews – and Calhoun County High School. The school district shares a vocational education center with Orangeburg School District 5 in Orangeburg.

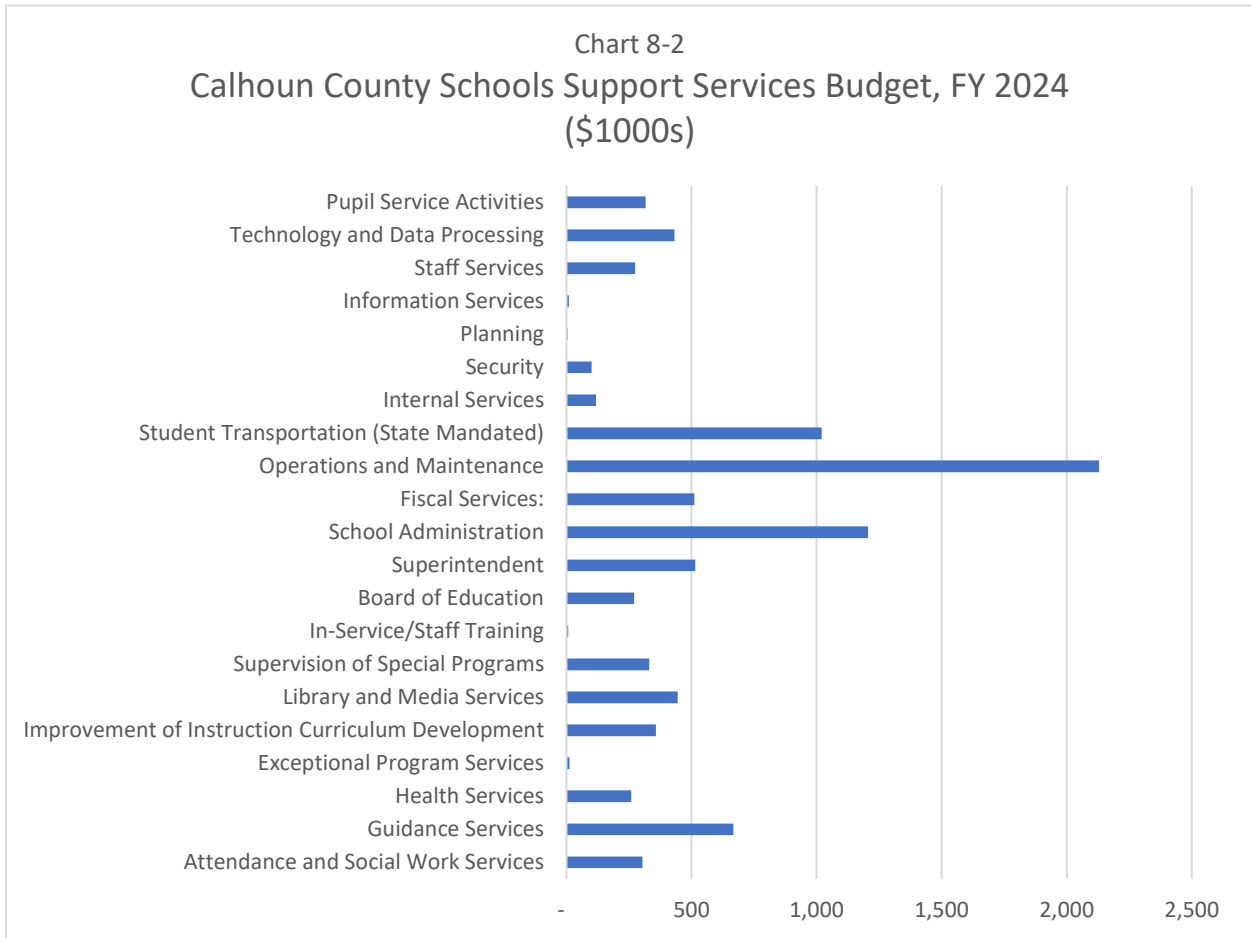
Map 8-2 shows the locations of the public schools, private schools, public library and the museum and cultural center.

CCPS has 1,521 students enrolled in Fall of 2023, an 89 percent graduation rate, and a student/teacher ratio of 19 to 1 in core subjects. High school students are able to take courses at Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College and earn college credits. Three Calhoun High School students earned associates degrees in 2023 through this program, and up to eight students are on track to earn associates degrees in 2024.

The district’s general fund budget is focused on instructional services and support services. For fiscal year 2024 is \$19.6 million, with \$9.9 million budgeted for instructional service and \$9.2 million budgeted for support services. Appendix 8A contains a summary of the district’s budget for FY 2024; a more detailed budget is available on the district’s website at <https://www.ccpsonline.net/officeoffinance>.

Chart 8-1 presents a summary of the districts instructional budget, and Chart 8-2 presents a summary of the district’s support services budget.





[Calhoun County Public Library](#)

Calhoun County has a spacious, modern public library in downtown St. Matthews next to the county courthouse. The library relocated to the new facility in 2010 from a one-room building on Harry C. Raysor Drive. The county library has a staff of 15, and a budget for FY 2024 of \$512,733.

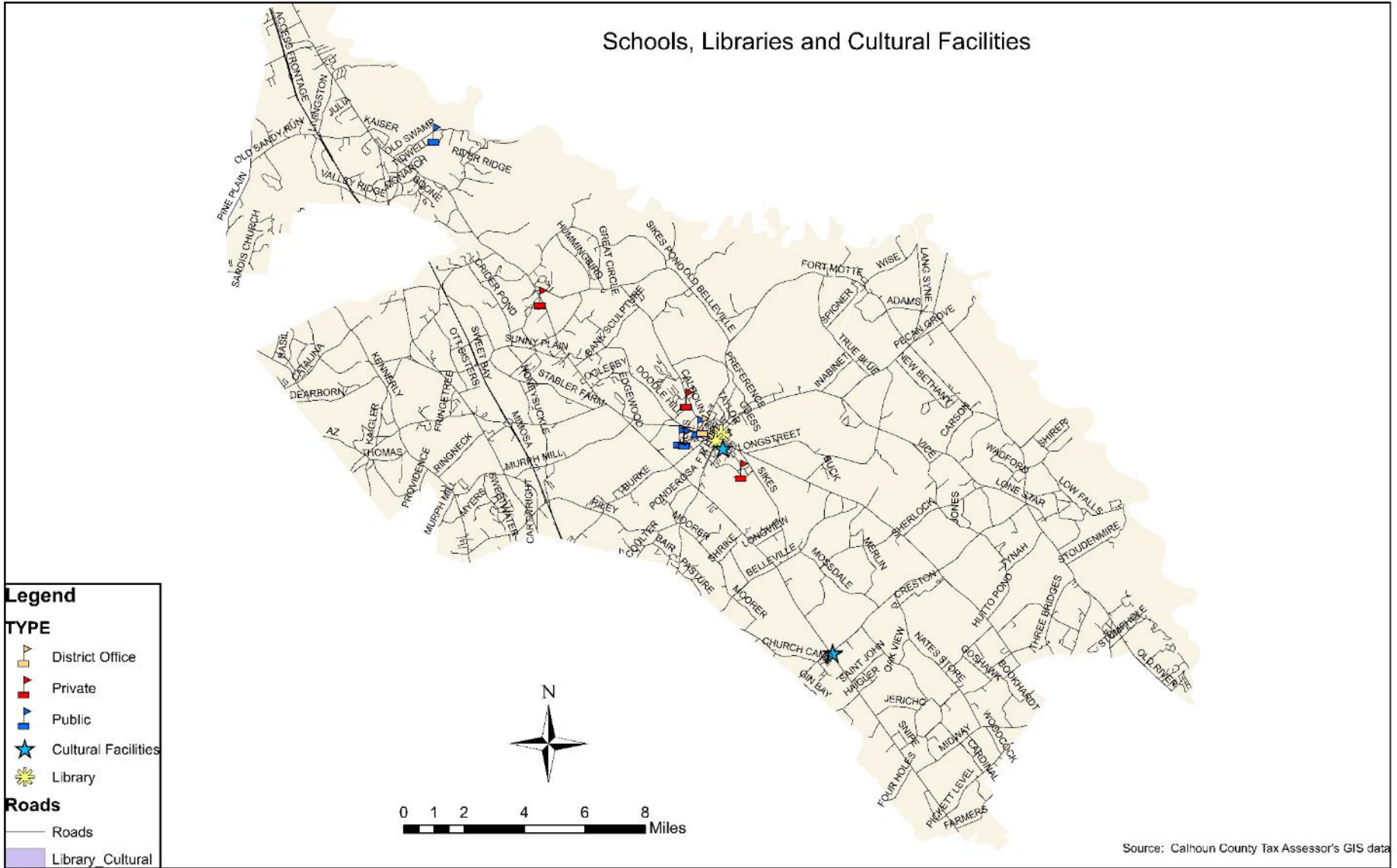
[Calhoun County Museum and Cultural Center](#)

The county’s museum and cultural center houses a large collection of historic documents, artifacts and memorabilia, and has a large meeting room for events and performances. The museum’s facilities are located on Butler Street about three blocks southeast of downtown St. Matthews. The museum and cultural center currently operates with a staff of two following the retirement of a long-serving director, and the budget for FY 2024 is \$322,830.

The museum and cultural center collects, preserves, researches, exhibits, and interprets the scope of Calhoun County’s history, genealogy, art, and culture. Community-oriented arts and educational outreach are also a core purpose for the organization.

Map 8-2

Schools, Libraries and Cultural Facilities



Future Needs

Public Schools

Based on population forecasts, existing schools are expected to have enough capacity to accommodate the student population in the county through 2045. The district has a site on US Highway 21 near Sandy Run that could accommodate a new school if growth occurs more rapidly than is currently forecasted. Currently, residential growth is focused in Sandy Run and in the southern part of the county near Lake Marion.

A 2017 statewide study of school efficiency by the S.C. Department of Education recommended that CCPS invest in technology to improve administrative efficiency, and to pursue more sharing of personnel and facilities with other small school districts. The district currently shares vocational education facilities and staff with Orangeburg District 5.

Based on a conversation with CCPS Superintendent Dr. Ferlondo Tullock, the highest priority facility needs of the school district are replacement of heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems in the schools; bringing restroom facilities into ADA compliance and building code compliance; and improving athletic facilities at the high school. HVAC replacement is currently underway, utilizing federal COVID relief funds, and bathroom facility upgrades are ongoing as well. Funding for athletic facility upgrades has not been identified.

Instruction priorities are maintaining full staffing levels and providing reliable technology in classrooms. CCPS offers the highest teacher salaries in the Midlands region, but continues to face challenges with attracting and retaining staff, largely due to the rural nature of the region and the long commute from urban areas that offer more extensive housing and leisure activity choices.

Calhoun County Museum and Cultural Center

The facilities of the museum were developed in the mid-1970s. Priorities for modernization and improvement of the museum's facilities and programs include modifications to the entrance to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act standards, updated modern display cases for the collections and exhibits, improvements to security lighting around the building, and a modern cataloging system to track and document the museum's collection.

The museum staff has indicated that a complete review, reassessment and appraisal of the collection is needed help determine priorities and make decisions about retention of some parts of the collection.

One of the challenges of operating a co-located museum and cultural center is fire protection. Fire sprinklers would be a threat to the historic documents and artifacts in the museum's collection. Increasing public availability of the facilities for events, meetings and receptions increases the risk to the historical collections. Improved security and protection for the exhibits and historic resources in the museum should be a priority in order to continue to accommodate events and meetings in the same building with the museum.

Public Works

This section addresses Calhoun County’s sewer system, water system, county-maintained roads, solid waste services, and animal control.

Existing Conditions

Sewer System

Sewer service in Calhoun County is provided by the Town of St. Matthews within the town limits, and by Calhoun County in the northern portion of the I-26 corridor to support industrial development. The county owns a small “package” wastewater treatment plant next to the rest area on the westbound side of I-26; this plant has been idle for several years, but could be reopened for pre-treatment of industrial wastewater if necessary in the future.

Calhoun County purchase wastewater treatment service from the City of Cayce, which operates a large wastewater treatments plant on the Congaree River in Cayce. Serving only industrial customers, wastewater is pumped uphill to Cayce using an 8-inch force main sewer line. Map 8-3 shows the location of county wastewater facilities, as well as the location of the St. Matthews treatment plant and drainage field.

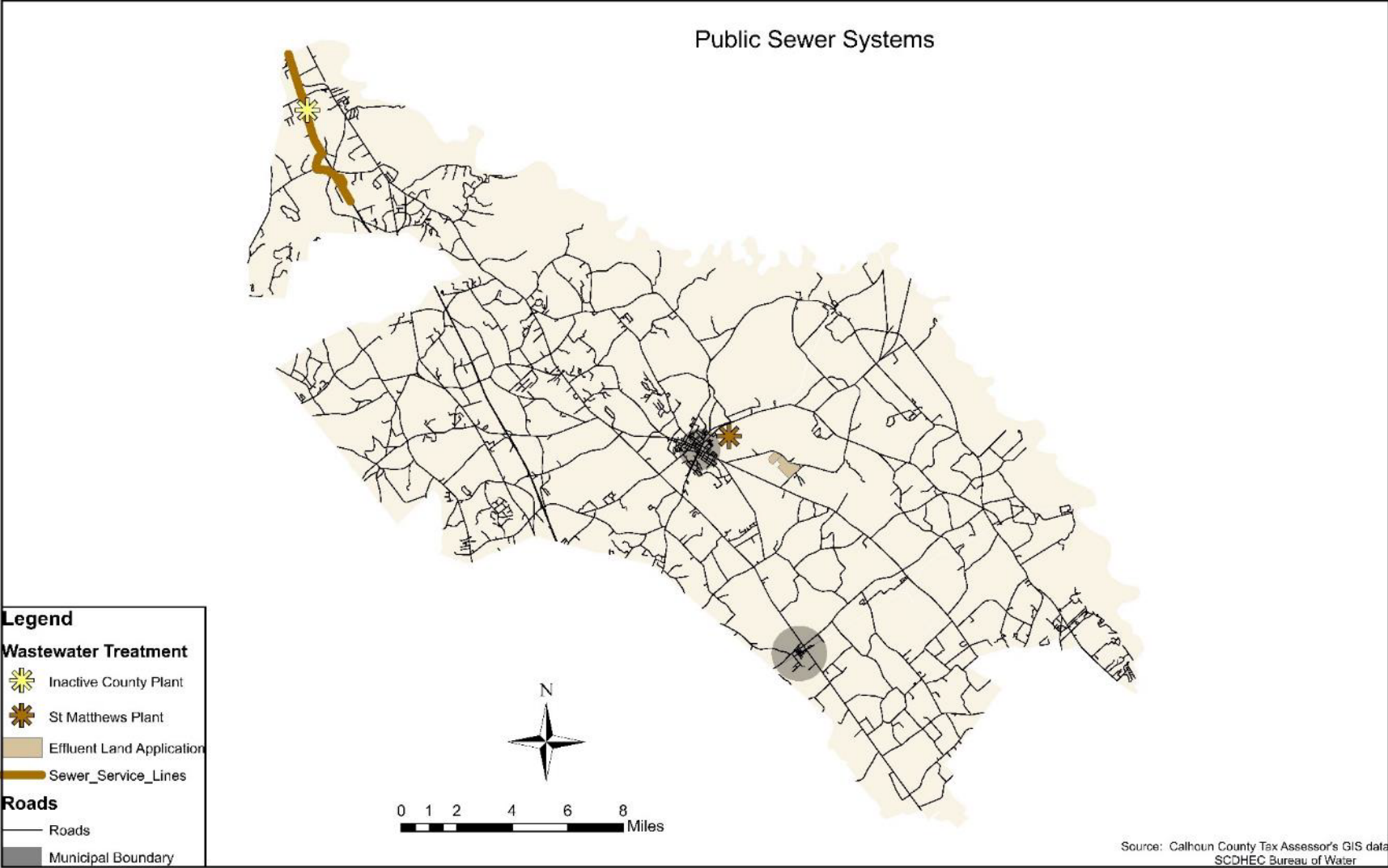
Table 8-5 shows the capacity of the county’s wastewater facilities.

Table 8-5
Calhoun County Wastewater Facilities

Facilities	Total Capacity	Available Capacity	Percent Available Capacity
I-26 Treatment Plant Capacity	140,000	not operating	not operating
Cayce Treatment Capacity	300,000	180,000	60%
Total Capacity	440,000	180,000	41%

Sewer Mains	Miles
Gravity Flow Sewer Mains	0.91
Pumped Flow Sewer Main	4.34

Map 8-3



Water Systems

Several different water systems serve parts of Calhoun County, as illustrated in Map 8-4. Calhoun County serves the Sandy Run area and central part of the county. The Town of St. Matthews serves the town limits and some adjacent areas. Bull Swamp Water System serves a small area of the northwestern county. Orangeburg Department of Public Utilities operates water service in the Cameron area. The Town of Ellore serves a small area off of Old River Road near Lake Marion.

Calhoun County water is obtained primarily from six groundwater wells. Four wells located in the Sandy Run area have substantial excess capacity. The two wells in the Belleville area serving the central portion of the county have much smaller excess capacity, as Table 8-6 shows. Table 8-7 presents a summary of water facilities.

Table 8-6
Calhoun County Public Water Supply Well Capacities

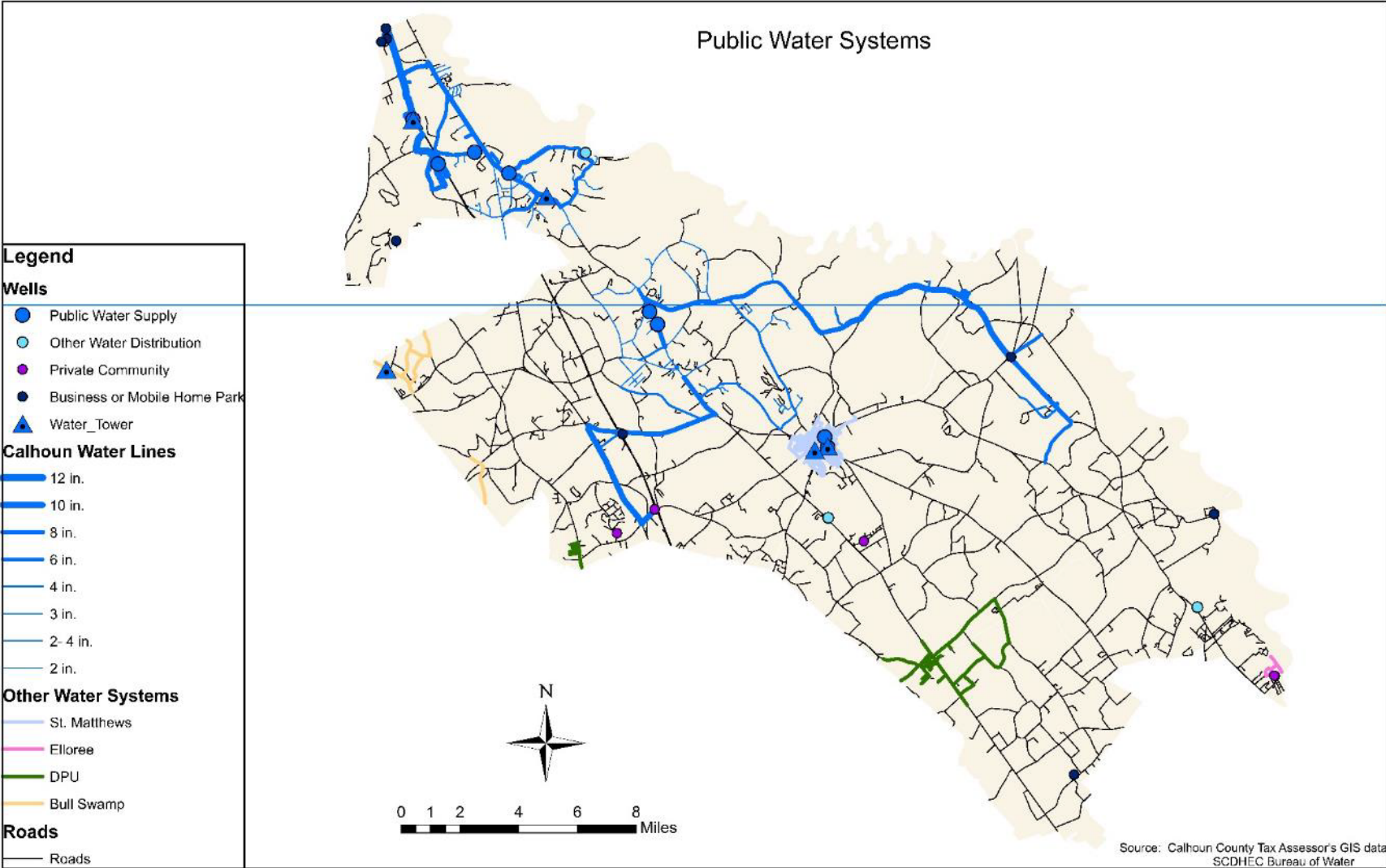
Available Flow from Wells	Gallons Per Day		
	Available Flow	Usage	Excess Capacity
Sandy Run well 1	355,200	212,888	142,312
Sandy Run well 2	345,600	97,274	248,326
Belleville 1	160,000	137,427	22,573
Belleville 2	164,480	83,838	80,642
I-26 well	432,000	167,603	264,397
Sonntag well	466,667	187,003	279,664
Total	1,923,947	886,033	1,037,914

Source: Calhoun County Water and Sewer

Table 8-7
Calhoun County Public Water Facilities

Facilities	Quantities
Number of Storage Tanks	6
Number of Wells	6
Miles of Water Mains	40
Average Water Use/Day	886,033
Well Production Capacity/Day	1,612,800
Percent Available Capacity	45%

Map 8-4



County-Maintained Roads

Calhoun County maintains 257 dirt roads totaling 105.2 miles. The inventory of county maintained paved roads consists of 29 roads and 7.6 miles.

The Calhoun County Transportation Committee, appointed by the county legislative delegation, receives an apportionment of state motor fuel tax of about \$988,000 annually. One-quarter of these funds are required by SCDOT to be used on resurfacing state-maintained roads. The remaining funds can be used for county road paving, county road resurfacing, construction of sidewalks, and other road improvement projects on any public roads in the county or towns.

Table 8-8
Calhoun County Roads

Road Type	Number of Roads	Miles
County Maintained Paved Roads	29	7.6
County Maintained Unpaved Roads	257	105.2

Animal Services

Calhoun County provides animal control services in the county and serves the incorporated areas through intergovernmental agreements. The county does not handle cats or large animals. Two animal control officers, one rescue coordinator and one kennel attendant staff the facilities. The county facility currently has 20 kennels. The facility is located at 140 Purple Martin Road in St. Matthews.

Solid Waste Services

Calhoun County operates a construction and demolition landfill at 112 Purple Martin Drive; the landfill will be closed in the next year and capped and seeded with grass.

Ten household trash collection sites are located throughout the county. Tires, electronics and recyclables are accepted at three of the sites.

Household garbage is disposed of at the Orangeburg County landfill under an intergovernmental agreement.

Future Needs

Sewer System

Expansion of sewer service areas in the county is problematic due to limited access to rivers suitable for discharge of treated wastewater. While probably feasible, discharge of additional treated wastewater to the Congaree River or Lake Marion is problematic for several reasons: Lake Marion is a raw water source for public water systems; permitting would be difficult and likely would require extensive and expensive tertiary treatment of the wastewater before being discharged; and public opposition is likely

to be extensive. Future technology may offer better solutions that would make expansion of sewer service more feasible.

The existing “force main” that pumps wastewater uphill to the Cayce wastewater treatment plant on the Congaree River is nearing capacity. The county is working toward development of a second force main in the 12th street corridor that would allow the county to utilize more of the treatment capacity that is allocated to the county at the Cayce plant.

The St. Matthews wastewater treatment facility uses relatively primitive technology, where wastewater is treated and settled in a lagoon and then pumped to an irrigation field for disposal of the treated wastewater in a manner similar to septic drain fields. There may be future opportunities to collaborate with the town to upgrade the towns wastewater treatment system and accommodate expansion of sewer service in the US 601 corridor to support residential and commercial growth near St. Matthews.

Water System

Water supply capacity from existing wells is adequate currently, but additional supply from Lake Marion may be necessary to support growth in the central county.

Wells in the Sandy Run area draw from the McQueen Branch aquifer, while the Belleville wells draw water from the Crouch Branch aquifer and have much lower excess capacity. SC DHEC groundwater models suggest that water supply demands on the Crouch Branch aquifer may begin to exceed capacity in the very long term (40 to 50 years), which may prompt the county to consider interconnection of the water systems in Sandy Run and Belleville, or to supplement water supply in Belleville with water from the Lake Marion Water System.

As water mains age, maintenance and replacement will become a larger issue. A comprehensive evaluation of the county’s water lines should be completed to help identify and prioritize long-term maintenance needs.

County Roads

The county maintains a significant inventory of dirt roads, which require little expense for materials but do require significant equipment hours and labor hours. The limited inventory of county maintained paved roads is not a significant burden, and state funds (“C funds”) through the Calhoun County Transportation Committee are sufficient to keep up with current resurfacing needs.

Dirt road paving is prioritized based on funding available through the CTC, and dirt roads are selected for paving based on number of houses, maintenance costs, complaints, school bus routes, and cost. Residents must petition the county for the road to be paved and must be willing to provide a 50 foot right of way for the road.

As additional subdivisions are developed in the county, the inventory of county-maintained paved roads will increase. An evaluation of road maintenance costs should be incorporated into subdivision reviews where public road dedication is proposed.

Animal Services

In 2024 the animal services facility will be expanded to 40 kennels with an additional 6 outdoor overflow kennels.

Animal Services has facilities for spaying and neutering dogs and cats, and has previously had a veterinarian who would come in once a week to provide these services, but currently no veterinarian is available to provide this service.

The operation is seeking individuals to foster dogs to relieve overcrowding and reduce the need to euthanize some animals.

Solid Waste Services

Existing collection sites are adequate to serve the county conveniently, and equipment needs have been addresses effectively, according to the public works director.

Parks and Recreation

Existing Conditions

Five Calhoun County Map 8-5 presents parks and recreation facilities in the county. The map includes County parks, County historic properties, as well as state, city, and some semi-public recreation facilities.

County Parks

The county maintains five parks. Three are on county-owned property: Calhoun Hills Golf Complex, baseball fields in Sandy Run, and Calhoun Sports Complex which is currently under construction. Figure 8-1 is a site plan for the sports complex. Heyward Community Park is leased from the Heyward AME Church, and John Ford Community Center is operated under an agreement with Calhoun County Public Schools. The FY 2024 budget for the parks department is \$258,344.

Table 8-9 provides details of the facilities in the county's parks, calculates the facilities per 1,000 persons, and compares the results to recommended standards from the National Recreation and Parks Association, which is a leading authority on public park facilities and standards. Green highlighted cells in the table show areas where county park facilities exceed recommended standards; yellow highlights areas below recommended standards.

Table 8-9
Calhoun County Parks and Community Centers

Facilities	Calhoun Sports Complex*	Heyward Comm. Park	Sandy Run Baseball Fields	John Ford Comm. Center	Calhoun Hills Golf Complex	Total	Total per 1,000 Persons	NRPA Standard [1]
Acres	56.1	64.3	5.6	7.0	152.8	285.8	20.2	5.0
Meeting Rooms	-	-	-	3	-	3	0.21	na
Baseball Fields	-	1	2	-	-	3	0.21	0.20
Basketball Courts	-	-	-	1	-	1	0.07	0.20
Commercial Kitchen	-	-	-	1	1	2	0.14	na
Fishing Pond	-	1	-	-	-	1	0.07	na
Football Fields	2	-	-	1	-	3	0.21	0.05
Golf Course	-	-	-	-	1	1	0.07	na
Pickleball Courts	1	-	-	-	-	1	0.07	na
Picnic Shelters	-	1	-	-	-	1	0.07	na
Shuffleboard Courts	-	2	-	-	-	2	0.14	na
Soccer Fields	2	-	-	-	-	2	0.14	0.05
Tennis Courts	2	2	-	-	-	4	0.28	0.50
Walking Track	1	1	-	1	-	3	0.21	0.05

* Under Construction

[1] National Recreation and Parks Association recommended standards

Map 8-5

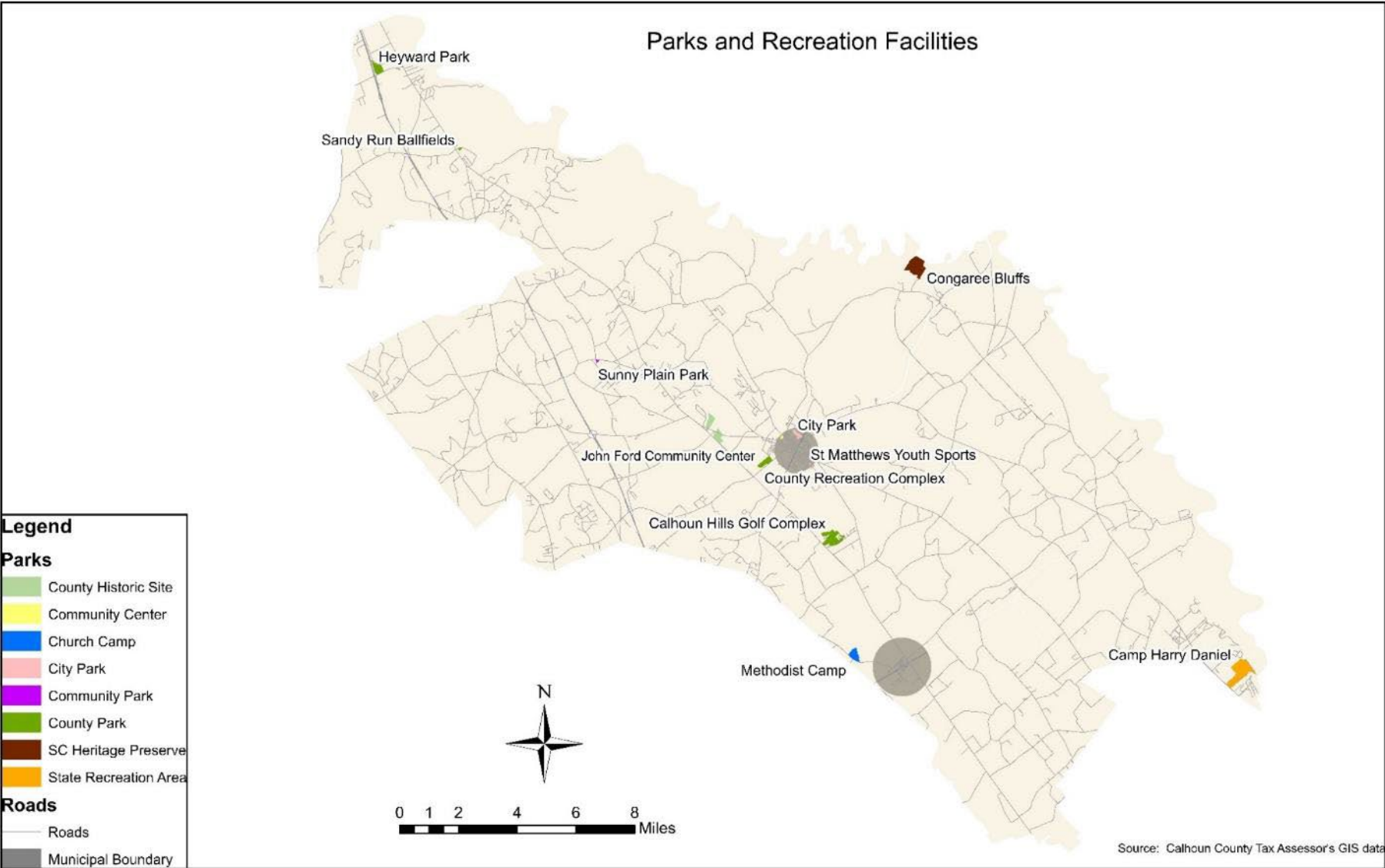


Figure 8-1



Other Public and Semi-Public Parks and Recreation Facilities

Congaree Bluffs Heritage Preserve is a 201-acre nature preserve with significant stands of American beech, oak-hickory and bottomland hardwood forest. Longleaf pine is being restored in upland areas. The site is unique and no comparable forest habitat sites exist in the South Carolina Coastal plain. The preserve is open daily from an hour before dawn to an hour after dusk. Hunting is prohibited, except for youth hunts coordinated by SCDNR.

Sunny Plain Park is a privately-maintained park with two baseball fields. Deferred maintenance appears to be an issue, as is common with similar privately maintained parks and recreational facilities, and the park does not appear to be currently in use.

The Southern Methodist Church operates a camp on 60 acres near Cameron, Camp Summers and Manget. The camp offers a variety of youth camp programs through the year.

Camp Harry E. Daniels is a 267-acre property owned and operated by South Carolina State University. The camp opened in 1949, serving black 4-H Club student in the segregated south. The camp was closed in 1994, but recently reopened with a focus on youth leadership training.

The Town of St. Matthews is making on-going improvements to a city park around Lake Inspiration on the east side of the town, and has repaired and improved sidewalks connecting the park to surrounding neighborhoods. In the southern part of town, two baseball fields are maintained on former school sites.

Future Needs and Opportunities

Table 8-9 indicates that the county's park facilities are above NRPA guidelines, generally. Tennis courts and basketball courts are two facility types that may merit additional consideration. Tennis courts at Heyward Community Park are in poor to unusable condition. These courts could be restored for tennis or resurfaced and repurposed as basketball or pickleball courts. The county should seek community input regarding the best way to restore or repurpose the Heyward Park courts.

The new Calhoun Recreation Complex addresses most of the unmet park needs in the county, and given low population growth forecasts for the county, existing park acreage should be sufficient to meet the county's park needs for the next 20 years or more.

Disc golf (also called "Frisbee golf") is growing in popularity and courses are being added at many parks across the state. Construction and maintenance costs for disc golf courses are quite affordable; Heyward Community Park may provide a suitable site for a disc golf course; community input should be obtained on this as well.

Goals, Objectives and Strategies

Draft goals, objectives and strategies

Goal CF1. Focus investments in community infrastructure to support a geographically-targeted economic development strategy for the county.

Objective CF1.1 Provide adequate public water and sewer capacity to support industrial development and job creation in the I-26 corridor.

Strategy: Collaborate with state agencies and City of Cayce to expand and improve sewer availability for industrial development.

Objective CF1.2 Develop water and sewer infrastructure in the US 601 corridor between St. Matthews and US Highway 176 to support residential and commercial growth.

Strategy: Collaborate with the Town of St. Matthews to pursue grants and other financing options to expand water and sewer service areas and to improve wastewater treatment methods and increase treatment capacity.

Objective CF1.3 Support commercial and residential revitalization in St. Matthews and Cameron to improve economic opportunity and community image.

Strategy: Apply for federal and state grants for infrastructure to support tourism, festivals and community events.

Strategy: Request County Transportation Commission funds for street and sidewalk repairs and improvements in town centers.

Strategy: Collaborate with St. Matthews and Cameron to develop conceptual plans to support applications for rural Transportation Alternatives Program funds from SCDOT for streetscape projects to improve pedestrian safety, accessibility and streetlighting in the town centers.

Goal CF2. Continue to improve public safety services and response times.

Objective CF2.1 Reduce response times for emergency services.

Strategy: Identify funding to support three paid full-time firefighters to improve maintenance and readiness of fire apparatus and to reduce response times.

Strategy: Monitor EMS call volumes and response times and consider an additional EMS station near I-26 and SC Highway 6.

Objective CF2.2 Continue to maintain adequate equipment and vehicle replacement schedules for public safety operations.

Strategy: develop and implement a sustainable vehicle replacement schedule and funding for all public safety services.

Goal CF3. Continue to maintain and improve existing community facilities in a fiscally responsible and sustainable manner to ensure quality service and operations.

Objective CF3.1 Improve administrative procedures to align capital improvement priorities with available local funding and grant opportunities

Strategy: implement and adopt a cost constrained five-year capital improvement program process that prioritizes and programs capital maintenance and capital improvements based on anticipated funding from all sources.