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Aaron Brown  
Christine Czarnik  
Kima Garten-Schmidt  
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Colin L. Martin

*Town Clerk*  
Beth Messervy

*Town Attorney*  
G.W. Parker

## **Town of Summerville**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

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#### **Town of Summerville Planning Department Earns Award for Green Infrastructure Plan**

**SUMMERVILLE, S.C. (Thursday, November 8, 2018)** - The Town of Summerville's Planning Department has won the award for Outstanding Planning Project in the Large Urban category for its Green Infrastructure (GI) Plan by the South Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association (SCAPA). The Town was the first municipality in the state to adopt a GI Plan.

The Town began the green infrastructure planning process to identify its most valuable natural assets to help facilitate future development that will reduce its impact on identified areas. The plan was adopted in February 2017. It identifies the potential for restoration of ecosystem services as well as supports and informs existing and projected regulatory plans as the Town works to balance the economic, social, and environmental concerns that an ever growing community should address.

The Planning Department hosted two public forums that provided community feedback. The GI Plan found that Summerville's planning area has 51 percent tree canopy coverage. This finding emphasizes the need to preserve the existing canopy coverage and work to increase it as the Town continues to grow.

The GI Plan was funded through the South Carolina Forestry Commission under a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Services South Region and part of the Farm Bill. This project was funded by 50 percent through the grant award and 50 percent matched with in-kind services from staff, volunteer time from appointed officials and community advocates, and donated data from counties the Town's jurisdiction covers.

The SCAPA Planning Awards recognize outstanding efforts and achievements that advance the art and science of planning. The Town's Planning Department accepted the award at SCAPA's annual conference on November 2, 2018 at the Westin Poinsett in Greenville, S.C.

The top honor was also awarded to the Dorchester County Planning Department for the Cooks Crossroads Planning Project.

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