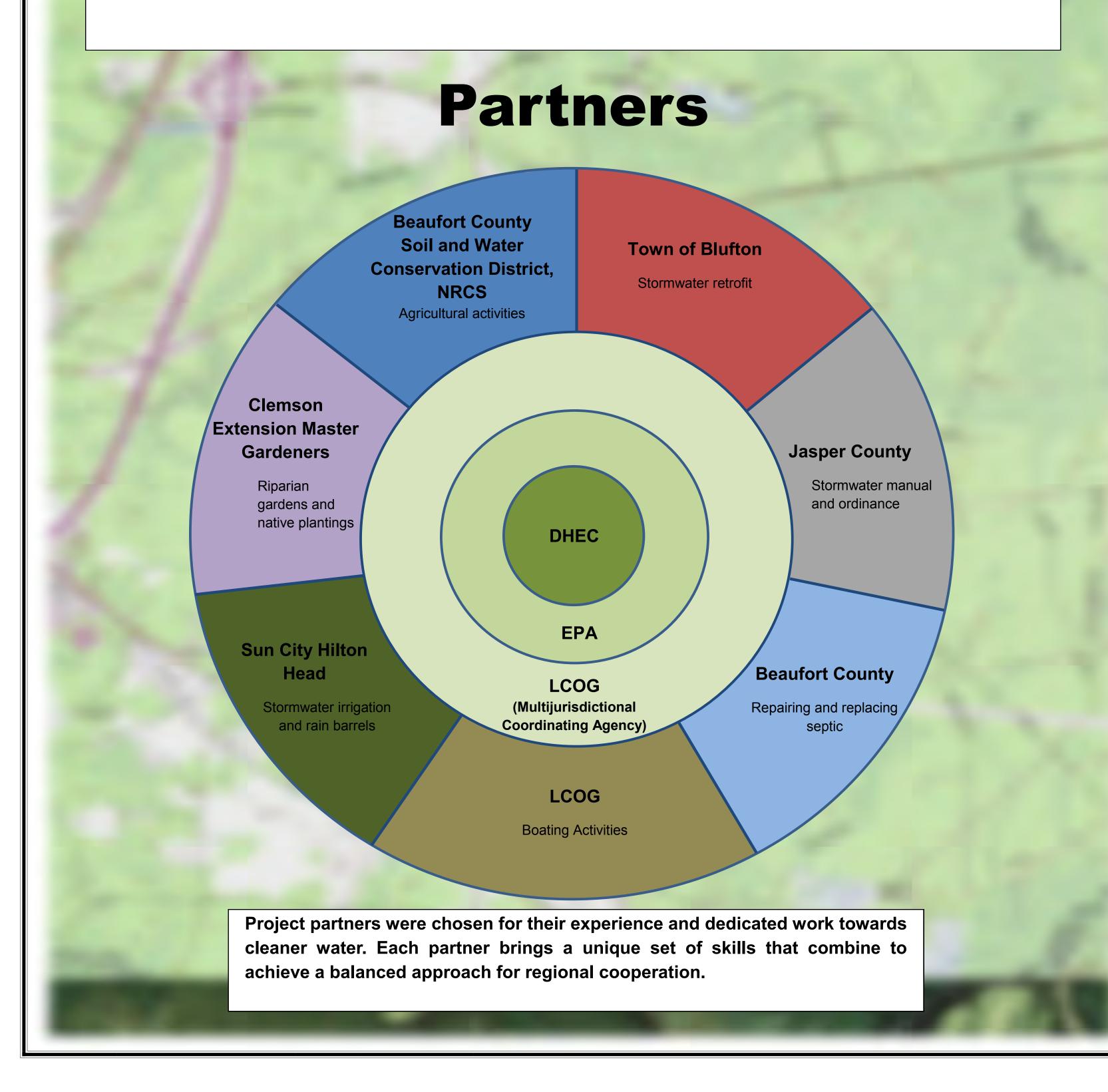


Abstract:

Since pollution passes beyond political boundaries, a multijurisdictional partnership made up of 12 public and private sector organizations including the Lowcountry Council of Governments (LCOG), Beaufort and Jasper Counties, and the Sun City Hilton Head Community Association was organized to carry out the implementation of a project funded by a §319 grant through DHEC to restore water quality in the Okatie River and its tributary tidal creeks. This poster presentation aims to highlight the policies used to achieve multijurisdictional coordination while also addressing lessons learned about the teamwork approach used throughout the project. Each partner brings a unique set of strengths collectively used to implement a plan that will foster the most successful results to restore and preserve the ecological and economic integrity of the Okatie in the long-term.

The Okatie River is a riverine tidal estuary located within Jasper and Beaufort counties and includes portions of the Towns of Bluffton, and Hardeeville. The riverine part of the waterbody flows about 8.7 miles to its confluence with the Chechessee River and because of its ecological value, the Okatie has been classified as Outstanding Resource Waters in state regulation.

The watershed faces unprecedented growth pressures that have contributed to an increase in nonpoint source pollution and stormwater runoff that in turn elevate levels of fecal coliform within the Okatie River. Primary sources of fecal coliform pollution include malfunctioning septic tanks, livestock operations, runoff from impervious surfaces, pet waste, and boating activities. SCDHEC has developed Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Okatie River. The calculated fecal coliform TMDLs require reductions ranging from 21 to 51 percent for three impaired shellfish monitoring stations in order to meet State Water Quality Standards.



Pollution Has No Boundaries:

Regional Cooperation for Restoring Water Quality

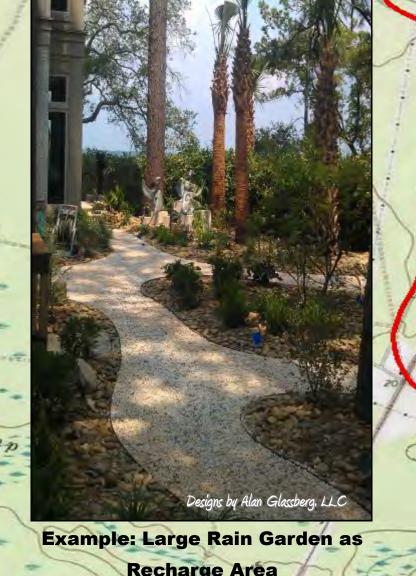
Jonathan Sherwood, Josh Hoke & Kari McCallister

Reach 3

Reach 2



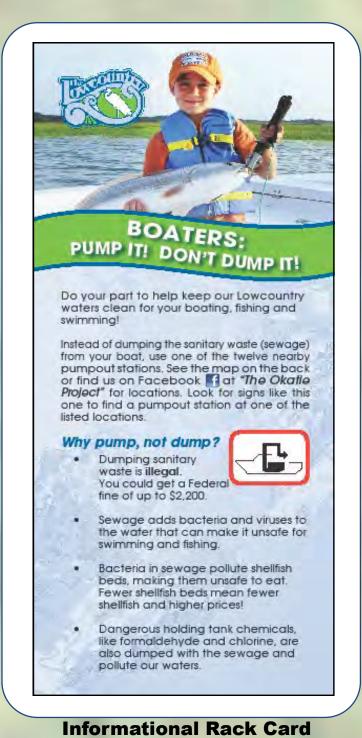




Example: Rain Garden Managing Storm Water in Driveway

Clemson Extension Master Gardners Rain Gardens and Vegetative Buffers

Communities in the watershed take pride in their landscapes Residents will be assisted by the experts at Clemson Extension for native plantings and buffering to protect the local waters. Master gardeners have already been coordinating with homeowners to start planting attractive buffers along sensitive areas this spring.



oating Activities

efit from the unmatched water r ources of the region. It is in everyone's interest that our local water bodies are in pristine condition, but boaters rely on water for their many recreational activities like fishing and swimming.

Outreach to the boating community by means of informational rack cards, website and other social nedia strategies.

LCOG is working to develop connections with the boating community to improve awareness of the environmental benefits of proper sewage disposal.

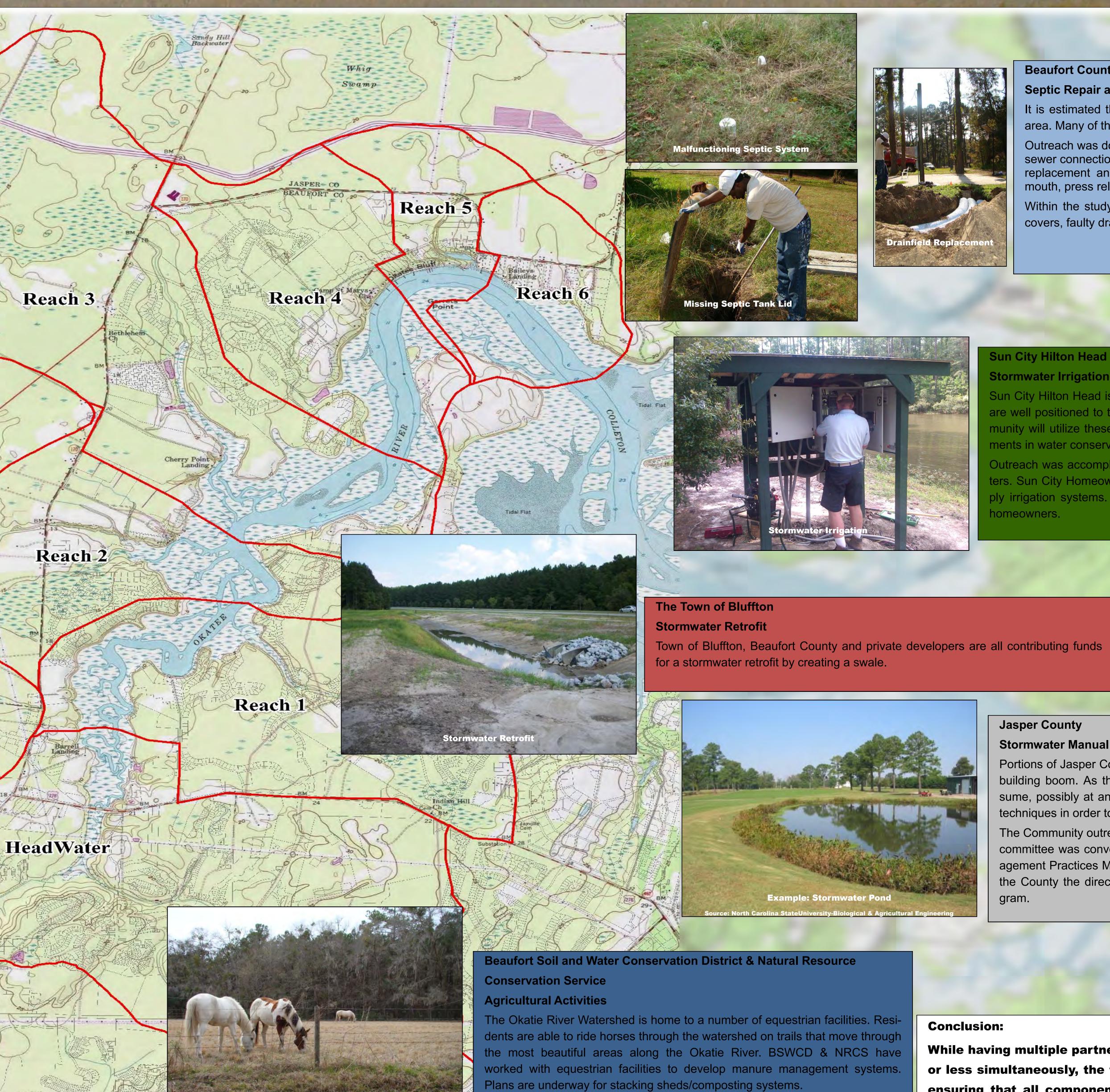


May River Ch

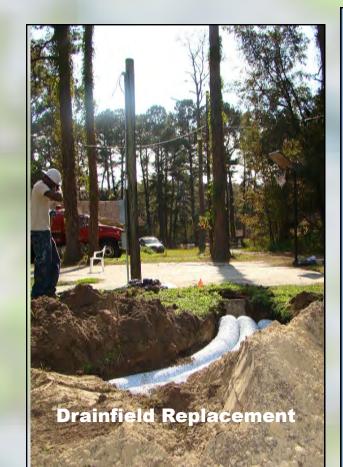




vestock in the Okatie Watershe







eaufort County

eptic Repair and Replacement

is estimated that there are over 900 septic systems in the study area. Many of them were installed before regulation.

Outreach was done by County staff surveying the area to find where Within the study area contractors have found septic tanks without covers, faulty drainage fields, and bad connections.

un City Hilton Head

tormwater Irrigation and Pond Retrofit

nation's premier retirement communities. Sun City's Communitie ntage of the region's most beautiful natural resources. The comnity will utilize these resources while protecting the natural environment with the latest advance ents in water conservation and stormwater best management practices.

lished through projects and initiatives publicized on Sun City TV and newslet wner Association will now use rainwater collected in stormwater ponds to sup-/ irrigation systems. They are currently working through a program to subsidize rain barrels for

Jasper County

Stormwater Manual and Ordinance

Portions of Jasper County, especially within the watershed, have seen rapid growth during the last building boom. As the economy improves, Jasper County will be in a position for growth to resume, possibly at an accelerated pace. Growth in the future will follow low impact development techniques in order to protect water with a new stormwater manual and ordinance.

The Community outreach was completed through several public meetings and a technical advisory committee was convened with multidisciplinary members. Jasper County developed a Best Management Practices Manual, adopted in October 2011, creating stormwater guidelines that will give the County the direction it will need to develop and implement a Stormwater Management Program.

While having multiple partners means that a variety of initiatives can be undertaken more or less simultaneously, the task of project coordination is a very real one. This includes ensuring that all components are progressing according to the established milestones and timeline, that the coordinator stay informed and involved, and that day-to-day tasks such as reporting, contract administration and paying multiple sub-contractor invoices are completed correctly and on time. The expected results, however, make the work worthwhile.