

# COMMUNITY FACILITIES

## OVERVIEW

The Laurens County Community Facilities Element provides an inventory and assessment of the facilities and services available in the County and surrounding jurisdictions. The Element profiles the infrastructure, providers, and partnerships associated with essential community facilities that include governmental services, water and sewer, utilities, solid waste collection, floodplain and stormwater management, fire and emergency medical services, police, education, health care, recreation, and libraries.

Community facilities address the most basic and essential services needed by County residents. Community facilities include the buildings, facilities, lands, and services needed to serve the public health, safety and welfare and are collectively known as the community infrastructure. These assets help shape living and work environments, provide the physical framework for the attraction of new businesses and employment opportunities, and provide a foundation for new growth and development. While many community facilities are provided or administered by local governments, others are offered by utilities, hospitals, schools, and nonprofits.



### Water and Sewer

- The Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission, City of Clinton, Renewable Water Resources (ReWA) and the Laurens Commission of Public Works provides Laurens County with water and sewer. Piedmont Natural Gas, Clinton Newberry Natural Gas Authority, and Fountain Inn Natural Gas provide natural gas to Laurens County.
- The water or sewer system has current plans for expansion of improvement of water and sewer mains at this time, outside of regular maintenance and replacement.
- All providers have excess capacity.

### Electricity

- Laurens Electric Cooperative, Laurens CPW, Piedmont Municipal Power Agency (PMPA), and Duke Energy provides electricity to Laurens County.
- Residents of Laurens County are charged an average residential electricity price of 12.35 cents per kilowatt hour, which is 13.22% less than South Carolina's average price of 14.24 cents and 19.47% less than the national average of 15.34 cents.

### Solid Waste

- The County does not provides solid waste pick up to residents but provides recycling centers and a county landfill for use by County residents.

### Public Safety

- The Laurens County Sheriff's Department is managed by Sheriff Don Reynolds and is fully staffed with command staff, administration, deputies, and school resource officers.
- The Laurens County Fire Service, led by Greg Lindley, Director, is a combination of paid and volunteer firefighters. The Service's vision is dedicated to being focused to meet the ever changing needs of our community while ensuring a safe and secure environment for all through professional development, unity and team work. Personnel are trained in interior structural firefighting, Confined Spaces Rescue, Haz. Mat., Medical First Responder, fire prevention and trench rescue.

### Schools

The County is served by the Laurens County School District 55 and 56. Laurens District 55 covers the City of Laurens and the western portion of the County. District 56 serves the City of Clinton and the eastern sections of the County. Both school districts have facility plans for upgrades and expansions. In addition, Laurens County residents are served by the Greenville County School District and Greenwood County School District 51.

### Colleges

Presbyterian College, a liberal arts college, is located within Clinton city limits. The current enrollment of 991 undergraduate students represents an intimate campus community that, in addition to an outstanding academic program, offers visual and performing arts programs and NCAA Division 1 athletics (Big South Conference).

Piedmont Technical College is one of 16 technical colleges that make up the SC Technical College system. Created in 1966, Piedmont Technical College is a fully accredited college with many courses qualifying for transfer to a four-year program at a major college or university. Collaborative efforts have established a Center for Advanced Manufacturing that consists of 24,000 square feet of hands on training to benefit existing industry employees and future industrial recruitment.



Parks, Recreation, and Tourism

The Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department of Laurens County ensures that the availability of athletic, passive, and water recreation opportunities effectively serve the diverse needs and interests of area residents, as well as visitors.

Library

The Laurens County Library offers informational and recreational reading through a main library in Laurens, Clinton, and via a bookmobile. Over 106,000 volumes, filmstrips, records, videos, and slides are available for loan to the public. The library subscribes to over 250 periodicals and 25 newspapers. The facilities include meeting rooms, study rooms, and children’s areas.



Goals/Implementation Strategies	Accountable Agencies	Time Frame	Completion Date
<b>Goal: To maintain the County's historical, cultural, and community assets that preserve the County's character.</b>			
Maintain an inventory of historical sites and structures and incorporate them into a layer in the County GIS system.	County Council	Short Term	
Request input from the heritage and historical groups on development proposals presented to the County Planning Commission	Planning Commission Planning	Ongoing	
<b>Goal: To maintain existing County facilities and plan new facilities to provide efficient and effective service to the citizens of Laurens County.</b>			
Continue to support utility providers needs for maintenance, management, and expansion of facilities.	County Council Utility Providers	Short Term	
Perform an organizational assessment study for facilities (facilities assessment), taking into consideration current population and future growth scenarios.	County Council Administration	Short Term	
Develop County facilities in locations that are actual or potential focal points for citizen's activities.	County Council Administration	Ongoing	
Evaluate and support school facility expansion to accommodate projected growth by working with developers on new school sites, etc.	School District County Council	Short Term	
Work with all utility providers to ensure the appropriate safety and aesthetic measures and practices are utilized for all areas of the County.	County Council Utility Providers	Short Term	
Develop a Recreation Master Plan with an emphasis on promoting inclusion, so that all residents and County Council Districts are served. Coordinate recreation facility development with County Comprehensive Plan.	County Council PRT	Short Term	
Review and revise the Land Development Regulations to ensure that adequate standards for various types of open space exist, including wooded spaces, floodplain areas and greenways.	County Council Planning	Short Term	
Continue to seek opportunities to expand safe bike paths that connect the County with local schools, parks, and neighborhoods especially during the development approval process.	County Council School District Planning Commission Planning	Short Term	



Evaluate existing programs, services, and facilities on a periodic basis to determine community needs, desired levels of service, economic impact and ability to provide requested/required service.	All Departments	Mid Term	
Maintain the volunteer system of the individual fire departments, encourage centralized coordination, communication, and supervision and to supplement with paid staff where necessary.	County Council Administration Fire Department	Ongoing	
Improve the standardization of equipment and levels of training for public safety departments.	County Council Fire Department Sheriff's Department	Ongoing	
Evaluate existing refuse/recycle collection sites for adequacy and replacement/expansion if necessary.	County Council Administration Public Works	Short Term	

