



CULTURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT

The Cultural Resources Element considers historic buildings and structures; commercial districts; residential districts; unique, natural, or scenic resources; and archaeological and other cultural resources.

National Register of Historic Places



Listing in the National Register of Historic Places helps to preserve historic and archaeological resources. Two sites on Kiawah Island are listed in the National Register. The Arnoldus Vanderhorst House was placed in the Register in 1973 and the Bass Pond Site was placed in the Register in 1979.

What is now known as the “Vanderhorst House” was the second plantation house built by Arnoldus Vanderhorst II and his wife Elizabeth on the island. The first was destroyed by the British in 1780, leading to the second, by far the oldest structure on Kiawah Island, being built in 1801.

The Bass Pond site, located near what is now Rhett’s Bluff, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places because the site is a prehistoric “shell midden area.” A midden is a mound of domestic waste/refuse containing shells, animal bones, and cultural materials marking the site of a prehistoric settlement. This Bass Pond site is the only midden not being affected by natural erosion and its significance to understanding human cultural processes during the Formative Period cannot be overstated (*source: nomination form for National Register of Historic Places*).

Natural Resources and Scenic Areas

The Town of Kiawah Island takes a very active role in managing and protecting the natural resources and wildlife within its boundaries. The Island possesses a variety of scenic resources that are scattered throughout the Island. They include the beach which was named as one of the Top 10 beaches in the country by *Conde Nast*. Others include the saltwater marshes, Kiawah River, lakes and ponds. Programming is offered by the Kiawah Island Golf Resort’s Recreation Department and Nature Center and include canoeing and kayak trips, alligator expeditions and nature lectures and exhibits.



The Island's in-depth wildlife programs are discussed in more detail in the Natural Resources Element of this plan.

Commercial Districts

The commercial districts on island are inclusive of resort facilities, restaurants and conference facilities. These facilities complement the Kiawah community and provide for recreation, tourist attractions and meeting space accessible by the entire community.



Residential Districts

Kiawah is a gated residential community with a resort. The residential districts on island are zoned R-1, R-2, and R-3 and include single family homes, townhomes, and



multifamily dwellings. The residential developments or neighborhoods have been planned by Kiawah Development Partners (successor to Kiawah Resort Associates) following the planning guidelines of the Town of Kiawah Island as outlined in the Land Use and Planning Ordinance (Article 12).

Recreational Activities

From biking, kayaking, fishing, tennis, or golfing Kiawah Island offers a number of recreational outlets for its residents and visitors. With over 17 miles of bike paths, two tennis centers, and fishing docks throughout the Island, Kiawah has something for everyone to enjoy.

With five world class golf courses, Kiawah Island is a haven for golfers. The Island's golf courses include Kiawah Island Golf Resort's Cougar Point, Turtle Point, Osprey Point and the Ocean Course; and Kiawah Island Club's River Course. The Ocean Course at Kiawah played host to the 1991 Ryder Cup and the Senior PGA Championship in 2007, and is the future site of the PGA Championship in 2012.

Community Activities

In addition to recreation activities, the Kiawah Island Community Association's homeowner's facility, the Sandcastle, is a gathering place for residents for fellowship, classes, and exercise. The Sandcastle offers community events including



wine tastings, fitness classes, member dinners, and poolside celebrations year-round. Some of the cultural offerings at the Sandcastle include foreign language classes, arts appreciation and lectures.

The Sandcastle also offers a state of the art gym, library /lounge with internet, pool, playground and veranda overlooking the ocean for members and their families to enjoy.

Arts Council

The Arts Council was created by the Town in 2004 to foster and enhance broad community appreciation and involvement in the visual and performing arts. Performances began in FY2005 with a budget of \$25,000. For the 2008/2009 season, the budget grew to a level of \$115,000 with 21 events and an audience of more than 5,400 attendees. The original focus was on chamber music but has grown to include symphonic, ballet, jazz, country and blues, gospel, theater, film, and fine arts. In addition, the Arts Council presents outreach cultural performances directed at neighboring communities. Three major venues are off-Island at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Episcopal Church of Our Savior, and Freshfields Village. All performances are free of charge to all attendees, including neighboring Seabrook Island, Johns Island, Wadmalaw Island, and the greater Charleston community, as well as visitors and guests to the Island.



A detailed annual report is produced by the Arts Council summarizing the various events hosted, number of attendees, audience reviews and dollars invested. To review the annual Arts Council reports, visit, www.kiawahisland.org.

In addition, the Town collaborates with the Charleston Symphony Orchestra to promote the appreciation of the orchestral performances throughout the island.

The Town of Kiawah Island, KIGR, KICA, the Conservancy and the Kiawah Island Club host many events. These include both cultural and sporting events that bring thousands of visitors to the Island.

Community Outreach

The Town of Kiawah Island also has a culture of generosity and volunteerism that extends beyond the geographical boundaries of the Town. Many of the residents volunteer at area schools on Johns Island in various capacities including mentors, tutors, supply providers, and coaches. Residents also volunteer in a wide-range of external agencies including the Charleston Symphony Orchestra, Gibbes Museum, Sea Island Habitat for Humanity, and SC Aquarium.



In addition to its volunteerism, the Town of Kiawah Island has shown its generosity by contributing \$250,000 to the Charleston Symphony Orchestra, \$500,000 to the Kiawah Island Natural Habitat Conservancy, and \$170,000 to area non-profits including the Rural Mission, Barrier Island Free Medical Clinic, Coastal Crisis Ministries, and Our Lady of Mercy Outreach.

The Town also extends educational opportunities to the surrounding community through wildlife research and school tours to the Nature Center and beach on Kiawah Island. The 3rd grade students from Mt. Zion Elementary and Frierson have participated in recent outreach training programs. The Town's Environmental Committee has used its budgeted funds for the past three years to support these educational efforts.

Key Issues

The following are the key issues related to the Cultural Resources Element:

- Preserving and protecting the historic areas of the Island;
- Ensuring that the cultural interests and needs of the Town's differing population components are met by providing a diversity of programs; and
- Supporting the continuation and expansion of cultural events and programs in the Town, including outreach events directed at neighboring communities.



Goals

To help the Town further realize its Vision, the following goals should be considered when evaluating proposals for change.



1. Encourage the identification and preservation of archaeological and historic resources located on Kiawah Island.

| | Implementation Strategy | Responsibility | Time Frame |
|----|--|-----------------------|-------------------|
| a. | Monitor preservation of identified archaeological and historic resources. | Town Council | Ongoing |
| b. | Evaluate requests for zoning permits to identify any previously unidentified archaeological or historic resources within the Town. | Planning Director | Ongoing |
| c. | Establish a Town museum exhibit to highlight the history and artifacts of Kiawah Island. | Town Council | By 2012 |

2. Encourage the development of programs and services that improve the delivery of cultural activities to all of Kiawah Island and its visitors.

| | Implementation Strategy | Responsibility | Time Frame |
|----|--|------------------------------|-------------------|
| a. | Coordinate with other public and private organizations, including KICA, KIGR, KDP, among others, to encourage the further development and delivery of golf and recreation-related activities for the Town's resident, non-resident property owner, and visitor populations. | Town Council | Ongoing |
| b. | Support the Town Arts Council which is chartered to foster community appreciation and involvement in the visual and performing arts through a range of programming, services, support and cultural education. | Town Council | Ongoing |
| c. | Coordinate with other public and private organizations, including KICA, KIGR, KDP, among others, to encourage the further development and delivery of other cultural activities such as arts, clubs, and common activities, for the Town's resident, non-resident property owner, and visitor populations. | Town Council Arts Council | Ongoing |
| d. | Promote available events and programs for the benefit of the Town's resident, non-resident property owner, and visitor populations, and outreach events for neighboring communities. | Arts Council | Ongoing |