



BEAUFORT COUNTY News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 11, 2015

Contact:

Anthony J. Criscitiello
Planning Director
843-255-2140

Beaufort County Community Development Code Receives National Attention

The Beaufort County Community Development Code recently received the Congress for the New Urbanism's (CNU) Charter Award of Merit and the Form Based-Code Institute's Driehaus Award. Both awards were presented at the 23rd annual CNU Congress in Dallas.

The CNU is a non-profit group devoted to building walkable, sustainable neighborhoods. The Charter Awards are given annually to honor exemplary work in architectural, landscape, urban and regional design, and to recognize such accomplishments nationally and globally. In addition to Beaufort County, the CNU honored projects in Chicago, China, El Paso, Guatemala, Los Angeles, New Orleans, and Richmond.

The Driehaus Award is presented annually by the Form-Based Code Institute, a non-profit professional organization dedicated to advancing the understanding and use of form-based codes. The Driehaus Form-Based Codes Awards recognize excellence in the writing and implementation of form-based codes that provide good examples for communities to study and learn from in their own efforts to write codes. The Beaufort County Community Development Code was the only actual code submitted to receive a Driehaus Award.

Work on Beaufort County's Community Development Code started in 2006, following a decade of unprecedented growth in the County. The Code, which was developed in close coordination with the City of Beaufort and Town of Port Royal, seeks to address the County's future growth in a manner which balances the preservation of natural resources, the promotion of economic development, the protection of historic properties and communities, the promotion of affordable housing, and the promotion of high development standards, while simultaneously offering more flexibility and ease of use to property owners and developers.

The Code is distinctive in that there are very few examples of consistent zoning between counties and municipalities across the nation. Also, Beaufort County is unique in using the Transect, an urban planning model, as the organizing principle for multi-jurisdictional zoning. This approach of working across jurisdictions makes the Beaufort County Community Development Code a useful land use planning model for other counties in South Carolina and across the nation. In that regard, the South Carolina Association of Counties will feature an article about the Code in the summer 2015 edition of *County Focus*, a magazine highlighting successful county programs, projects, and activities across South Carolina.

The Code was shepherded by the Beaufort County Planning Department and Beaufort County Council's Natural Resources Committee. The Code was approved by Beaufort County Council this past December. To view the Code, visit the following link: <http://www.bcgov.net/departments/Planning-and-Development/planning/cdc/>.