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## **Old Town gets doused with rain barrels**

Eighteen rain barrels were installed for residents and businesses within the Old Town Historic District as part of the town of Bluffton's May River Watershed Action Plan. The goal is to install 75 barrels by the end of September .

The town of Bluffton Rain Barrel/Rain Garden Program, funded by a South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Section 319 Grant, is a component of the May River Watershed Action Plan. The \$1.2 million grant and town match implement a number of best management practices that will improve water quality in the May River and will reduce stormwater runoff impacting the river.

The rain barrel/garden program provides Old Town businesses and residents with free assistance up to \$650 for all necessary rain barrel equipment and installation, as well as materials to plant a rain garden. The program will primarily help Old Town businesses and residents create a more vibrant, sustainable community while retaining Bluffton's unique character, improve the quality of life for all residents and celebrate the May River in a community-oriented way, according to town officials.

In addition, the program has recently been expanded to areas outside of the Old Town, but within the May River Watershed. Participation is limited to a first-come, first-serve basis.

To apply, fill out the application form at [www.townofbluffton.sc.gov](http://www.townofbluffton.sc.gov) or contact Kim Jones in the Office of Planning and Environmental Sustainability, 706-4593, e-mail [kjones@townofbluffton.com](mailto:kjones@townofbluffton.com) or visit the office at Town Hall, 20 Bridge St.