

With the leadership and guidance of the Florence City Council, Florence City Utility Department staff and environmental engineering consultants have initiated the development of a comprehensive Water System Master Plan to address current demands and anticipated future growth. This plan will include a 20-year planning horizon through 2045 and will identify strategies for effectively planning, budgeting, maintaining, and enhancing the City's water system.

The Master Plan will evaluate existing system capacity, projected population and development growth, water quality requirements, and preparedness for potential emergency situations. Based on this analysis, the plan will establish a framework for sustainable and reliable water system operations.

The primary outcome of the Master Plan is a more robust Capital Improvement Program (CIP). This enhanced CIP will present a prioritized list of recommended projects, supported by detailed descriptions and cost estimates, to guide future investments and ensure the long-term performance and resilience of the City's water infrastructure.

Surface Water Treatment Plant – Capital Rehabilitation

Project Description: The work involves constructing new finished water storage; installing and rehabilitating pumps with variable frequency drives (VFDs) across intake, raw, transfer, finished, and recycle systems; and adding new lime facilities. It also includes upgrades to process gates, valves, sludge collection equipment, roofing, laboratory facilities, and SCADA systems.

Project Schedule: Construction to begin in spring 2026. Anticipated completion winter 2028.

Project Cost: \$52,585,871



An aerial perspective of the Frank E. Willis Regional Surface Water Treatment Plant, anchoring essential services in Pee Dee Commerce Park East.

GE Groundwater Treatment Plant (GWTP)

Project Description: The project will add two new submersible groundwater pumps and upgrade water treatment equipment used to feed lime, fluoride, and chlorine, along with new piping. Two high-service pumps will also be installed to improve water distribution. Existing pressure filters will be refurbished with new filter media. In addition, the facility's electrical, mechanical, HVAC, and plumbing systems will be fully replaced, and new SCADA technology will be installed to modernize system monitoring and control.

Project Schedule: Construction began in summer 2025. Estimated completion is summer 2026.

Project Cost: \$9,468,790



New 24-inch water main installed along Old Marion Highway, including a ball valve used for initial bacteriological sample collection to confirm the line is properly sterilized before being placed into service.

Groundwater Treatment Plants – Capital Rehabilitative Maintenance

Project Description: The Alligator Road, Darlington Street, Gully Branch, Pine Street, and South Florence Groundwater Treatment Plants (GWTPs) are currently in design. Project work includes installation of new submersible groundwater pumps; new lime, fluoride, and chlorine feed systems with associated piping; new high-service pumps; rehabilitation of pressure filter vessels with replacement filter media; and new SCADA systems. These improvements are part of a broader program spanning 14 GWTPs, with construction underway and installation and operational completion expected in fall 2026.

These groundwater treatment projects are designed to improve water quality before it enters the distribution system by using modern automation and continuous 24/7 monitoring. This allows potential issues to be detected early, enables faster staff response, and helps ensure reliable service and consistent water quality for customers.

Project Schedule: Design began in winter 2026. Estimated project completion in winter 2031.

Project Cost: \$30,000,000

Florence East Industrial Park New Elevated Water Tank

Project Description: Construct a new one-million-gallon concrete pedestal tank on-site within the Florence East Industrial Park.

Project Schedule: Design engineering began in winter 2026. Construction completion by winter 2028.

Project Cost: \$6,500,000

Freedom Boulevard 30-Inch Water Line Extension

Project Description: The project includes construction of two new submersible groundwater pumps; installation of new pre- and post-lime, fluoride, and chlorine feed equipment with associated piping; and installation of two new high-service pumps. The work also includes rehabilitation of existing pressure filter vessels, including replacement of filter media; replacement of the building's electrical, mechanical, HVAC, and plumbing systems; and installation of new SCADA equipment.

Project Schedule: Construction began in winter 2026 and is slated for completion in summer 2026.

Project Cost: \$6,993,878



State and Federal Funding

The City is grateful for the ongoing partnership and support of state and federal agencies in advancing critical infrastructure investments. Building on this collaboration, the City is actively pursuing approximately \$73 million in grant matching funds through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program. The WIFIA application process is anticipated to take roughly 1 year to complete. This effort complements the \$80 million currently being invested through the City's 2025 Utility Revenue Bond issuance, together strengthening the financial foundation for both current and future water infrastructure projects.



A signature landmark along I-95, the Pine Needles Elevated Water Tank delivers essential water storage for the community.

Learn more on how we are building Florence forward:



<https://www.cityofflorencesc.gov/planning-research-and-development/capital-improvements>

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