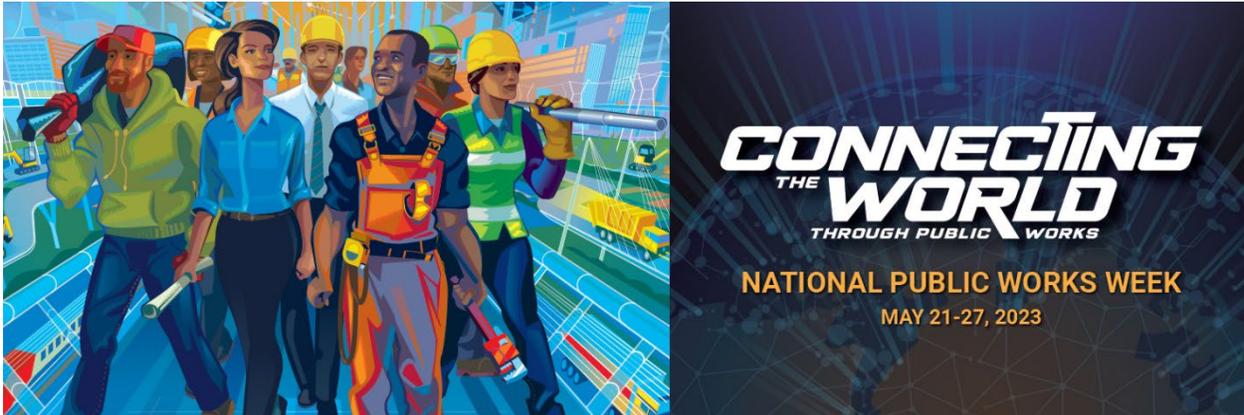


## Public Works Week

May 21<sup>st</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>



The American Public Works Association (APWA) and the City of Florence is proud to announce "Connecting the World Through Public Works" as the theme for the 2023 National Public Works Week. This year's theme illustrates how public works connects us all through infrastructure and service, enhancing the quality of life for the communities our professionals serve.

Florence Public Works is a vital part of the City that is dedicated to maintaining and improving infrastructure and services that enhance the safety and quality of life for our City. As first responders, Public Works staff is always ready to assist our community. No matter the circumstances, our crew of 24 full time employees and 3 seasonal staff all make sure the city is running as smoothly as possible.

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*"The Public Works department is dedicated to professionally maintaining and improving the current infrastructure of water, sewer, storm, street, airport, and City facilities, to the highest possible standards for our community. We will continually look ahead to plan for and provide services that will allow the City of Florence to meet its future goals."*

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## Divisions of Public Works

**The Street Division** is a one woman show that manages 41.14 center lane (82.44 lane miles) of streets. Its long-term goal is to provide and maintain a high quality and efficient multi-modal transportation system which recognizes that every citizen should be able to travel on our streets and to have a variety of transportation choices.

The City is committed to transportation enhancements through road improvements and the provision of high-quality trails, bike lanes and sidewalks. Street surface maintenance is an essential requirement to meet this goal, whether through patching, sealing, or rehabilitation.

**The Stormwater Division** maintains, cleans, and repairs the structures and facilities designed for the collection, conveyance, storage, treatment, and disposal of stormwater and surface water runoff. We currently have three full time employees maintaining the 34.73 miles of pipes and 4.5 miles of open drainage ways that create the City's Stormwater system plus operating the street sweeper.

The street sweeper is one of our best and most used tools in the Stormwater Division. While it seems odd that a machine designed to sweep streets is used primarily for stormwater it is the perfect tool to clean out the storm gutters and catch basins that run along the City streets. When the gutter is clear, water runs smoothly to the drains and the drains are less likely to get clogged with leaves and pine needles.

**The Wastewater Division** has five full-time employees that are responsible for collecting and conveying wastewater from customers to the treatment plant in a well-maintained collection system, free of stoppages and spills. The wastewater collection system includes approximately 70.89 miles of sanitary sewer lines, 28 [STEP \(Septic Tank Effluent Pump\)](#) stations and 38 wastewater pumping stations. The pumping stations provide a means of moving wastewater from areas lacking gravity sewer lines to an adjacent area where gravity lines exist. All of this serves over 3,700 customer connections.

The Florence Wastewater Treatment Plant was built in 1999. It is designed to treat 1.3 million gallons per day (MGD), average dry weather flow and a wet weather average daily flow of 4.3 MGD. Presently, the City experiences an average flow of 0.85 MGD.

**The Water Division** has five employees whose primary responsibility is to operate, maintain, repair, and expand the water system. While at the same time, providing a high-quality, dependable water supply to its customers. Our mission is to provide safe, reliable, cost-effective water supplies and outstanding customer service in an environmentally sensitive manner, the City also encourages efficient water use with a goal of reducing water consumption and conservation.

The City's water system derives its source from the North Florence Sole Source Dunal Aquifer. The City currently operates 13 wells, three reservoirs and three water pump stations. Water is delivered to over 4,171 customer connections through approximately 67 miles of water mains. Presently, the City is able to produce and treat 3 million gallons of water per day through its state of the art treatment facilities.

**The Parks Division** is a crew of two, who along with seasonal staff, maintain over 202 acres of park land at 24 different sites, of which 57.57 acres is developed. Of these, sixteen parks provide recreational amenities such as playgrounds, trails, community gathering areas, sports fields and other improvements.

Of the sixteen parks, five are mini-parks or “pocket parks”, two are neighborhood parks, eight are special use parks, and one is a community park.

**The Florence Airport** features a 3,000-foot paved and lighted runway and self-serve fuel (100LL and Jet A) for aircraft which is available 24 hours, 7 days a week. Although the airport is small, it does accommodate 8,000 (approximately 154 operations per week) air operations per year including daily UPS overnight service. A landing or take off is considered as one operation.

While Public Works does not have a full-time staff member assigned to the airport, we do provide professional management, oversight and day to day maintenance of the Airport facility. For the airport office we rely on the Airport Volunteer Group (AVG). The volunteers are our 'eyes and ears' in regards to monitoring airport operations and alerting City staff of potential safety, security or maintenance issues. The AVG had 17 volunteers provided 1663.5 hours running the Airport office during 2022.

**The Administrative Division** of Public Works has seven full-time employees. Three of these are our facilities staff that clean and maintain City Hall, Florence Events Center, Justice Center, Senior Center, and Public Works facilities. Our Engineering Tech performs inspections on our infrastructure projects, new development projects that extend City facilities (water, wastewater, stormwater and streets), and provides the initial plan review on development projects. Finally, the Public Works Director, Assistant Public Works Director, and Administrative Assistant make sure that the Florence Public Works Department runs as smoothly as possible.

Even though our staff are divided into multiple divisions, our Public Works team wears many hats and performs work that is essential to keeping Florence a City in Motion.

Happy Public Works Week!