



# News Release

**For immediate release**

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## **Beaufort's key West Street entrance to Waterfront Park to be completed in early May**

A primary entrance to Beaufort's Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park is getting a facelift as well as safety upgrades – both above and below the surface.

The plaza connects busy Bay Street to the Waterfront Park, and provides a unique view to the Beaufort River and its marshes. It also is well-used by shoppers, tourists and locals as the easiest way to move from the shops and restaurants to the landscaped park.

In recent years, tree roots lifted up sections of tabby sidewalk along the plaza, creating potential trip hazards despite the orange spray paint outlining the raised edges. In addition, the landscaping needed to be refreshed.

Last month's discovery of S.C. Electric & Gas service lines just below the sidewalk surface on West Street Extension briefly halted work, but crews are expected back on site this week.

SCE&G will relocate one gas line and bury another line deeper, to allow for installation of plaza paving. At the same time, Southern Palmetto, the city's contractor for the project, is working to correct storm drain issues in the corridor linking Bay Street to the park. The underground utilities, including some phone lines, date back to the 1970s.

"In a city as old as Beaufort, you never really know what you're going to find when you start digging up streets and sidewalks," said Bill Prokop, interim city manager.

"We want to do the job right. That means taking a little longer to relocate the SCE&G service lines and any other utilities we can address at the same time. The end result will be a safer, more attractive entrance to the Waterfront Park and utilities that are properly buried. Our utilities are being great partners in this work," he said.

When the utility work is done, the city's contractor, Southern Palmetto, will return to grading and resurfacing the area and will begin preparations for pouring the concrete. The new plaza will have a center area of brick pavers with scored concrete along the sides.

While the construction work may not be completed in time for the May 1-2 Taste of Beaufort festival, the City will make the plaza presentable and safe for pedestrians. Most of the new landscaping should be in place in time for the festival.

Crews have limited public access to the plaza during the demolition and grading work. Customers of the affected businesses have been encouraged to use alternate ways to reach the stores.

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