

(Friday, April 17 program continued)

**10:00 AM Area Character Appraisals: A Foundation for Place-Based Planning**

**11:00 AM** Discover how Area Character Appraisals power better planning by documenting local identity, guiding growth, and protecting unique community character. From historic neighborhoods to Gullah Geechee communities, these reports form a critical foundation for preservation and place-based planning. (1 Ethics credit and 1 Equity credit)

Speaker(s): *Eric Mehard, AICP, Planning Project Manager, Weston & Sampson*  
*Anna-Catherine Alexander, Director of Advocacy Initiatives, Preservation Society of Charleston*

**11:00 AM Snack Break (15 minutes)**

**11:15 AM Brownfield Basics: Remediate, Redevelop, Revitalize**

**12:15 PM** What is a brownfield, and what do we do with it? From investigation to revitalization, the NJIT Technical Assistance to Brownfield Communities (TAB) program will discuss the history of brownfields, the brownfield redevelopment process, the significance of planning and the benefits of these projects. (1 Sustainability credit)

Speaker(s): *Elise Molleur, Brownfield Redevelopment Specialist, NJIT TAB*

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**APRIL 16 & 17, 2026**

South Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association  
2026 Spring Conference

**SUMMERSVILLE**  
Council Chambers - 200 South Main Street

Interested in serving with SCAPA? Click the QR code to learn more!



Welcome to the SCAPA Spring Conference! We're thrilled to bring together planning professionals, students, and community leaders from across the state for a dynamic event focused on advancing the art and science of planning in South Carolina. This conference provides a valuable opportunity to connect, collaborate, and explore innovative solutions to the challenges facing our cities, towns, and rural communities. With engaging sessions, expert speakers, and meaningful networking opportunities, we aim to inspire and equip attendees with the tools they need to make a positive impact in their communities.

This spring, we gather in Summerville—known as the "Flower Town in the Pines" for its stunning springtime azaleas and pine forests. As we dive into topics ranging from downtown redevelopment and entrepreneurship to resilience and recreation, we also invite you to explore the charm of our host city and county. Whether it's your first SCAPA conference or you're a returning attendee, we're glad you're here and look forward to an enriching and productive time together.



# 2026 Spring Conference Program

Thursday, April 16

Location: Summerville City Council Chambers

- 8:00 AM**     **Registration & Breakfast**
- 9:30 AM**     **Welcome and Opening Remarks**  
*Speaker(s): Shea Farrar, AICP, President-SCAPA  
Russ Touchberry, Mayor, Town of Summerville*
- 9:45 AM**     **Based in Form - Cultivating a shared vision through collaborative master planning and the application of Form-Based Codes**  
**10:30 AM**  
To advance One Berkeley Comprehensive Plan goals, promote diverse housing, and incorporate neotraditional design and placemaking, Berkeley County and Gramling Brothers collaborated for 18 months to craft a PD proposal using a Form-Based Code for a prime infill development opportunity.  
*Speaker(s): Alison Simmons, AICP, Berkeley County Planning and Zoning Director  
Michael Welch, DPZ CoDesign  
Martin Gramling, Gramling Brothers Real Estate*
- 10:30 AM**     **Snack Break (15 minutes)**
- 11:00 AM**     **Our Path Forward - Fort Mill's 3-in-1 Approach to Proactive Planning**  
**12:00 PM**  
Discover Fort Mill's inspiring "Our Path Forward", a bold 20-year vision combining comprehensive, downtown, and parks plans. With lively community input and a passion for conservation, Fort Mill is elevating quality of life and celebrating local heritage.  
*Speaker(s): Lorna Allen, PLA, Bolton & Menk  
Penelope Karagounis, Planning Director, Town of Fort Mill  
Chris Chockley, PLA, Bolton & Menk*
- 12:00 PM**     **Lunch - On Your Own (90 minutes)**
- 1:30 PM**     **Park Planning in Resiliency, Tourism and Growth**  
**2:15 PM**  
The Town of Summerville and Dorchester County Parks and Recreation explore how their departments approach park planning to strengthen community resiliency and boost tourism—all while navigating the challenges and opportunities of rapid growth.  
*Speaker(s): Austin Zuniga, Director of Parks and Recreation, Dorchester County  
Amy Evans, CPRP, Director of Parks and Recreation, Town of Summerville*
- 1:30 PM**     **Mobile Tour of Downtown Summerville**  
**3:00 PM**  
Stroll around the Summerville Downtown, with stops at the best spots the Town has to offer. From pedestrian only Little Central, to the historic hospital housing Dorchester County Government, learn about how the town has accommodated growth and fostered community while preserving character.

- 2:15 PM**     **A Practical guide for Communities Planning for Resilience**  
**3:00 PM**  
The South Carolina Office of Resilience has partnered with the Clemson City and Regional Planning program to provide guidance and a toolkit of resources that translates the statutory requirements from resiliency in comprehensive plans into practical steps usable by communities of all sizes. (1 Sustainability credit)  
*Speaker(s): Hope Warren, SC Office of Resiliency  
Russell Stall, AICP, Clemson University City and Regional Planning  
Bradley Craig, Resilience Planning Manager, SC Office of Resiliency*
- 3:00 PM**     **Snack Break (15 minutes)**
- 3:15 PM**     **Revitalizing Rural South Carolina: SC Dept of Commerce Rural Development & Strategic Planning Initiative**  
**4:15 PM**  
The SC Department of Commerce Rural Development & Strategic Planning Initiative creates implementable roadmaps and funds catalyst projects to elevate prosperity in rural county seats. Learn how Bishopville, Walterboro and Winnsboro are strategically revitalizing their downtowns.  
*Speaker(s): Tripp Muldrow, FAICP, Principal, Arnette Muldrow & Associates  
Ryan Bland, AICP, Senior Planner, BOUDREAUX*
- 4:15 PM**     **AI in Bike Planning**  
**5:00 PM**  
This session presents my Clemson MCRP terminal project: How AI can be used in bike planning through a website cataloging APA award-winning bike plans, plus a chatbot that demonstrates current AI capabilities for plan review and drafting.  
*Speaker(s): Dylan Mathis, Student, Clemson University*
- 5:00 PM**     **Conference Reception Sponsored By:**  
**6:00 PM**



**6:00 PM**     **Summerville Third Thursdays (downtown Summerville)**  
**8:30 PM**

Friday, April 17  
Location: Summerville City Council Chambers

- 8:00 AM**     **Registration & Breakfast**
- 9:00 AM**     **Driving Nexton's Long-Term Vitality: Achieving Mutual Growth Objectives Through Strategic Collab**  
**10:00 AM**  
Selected by Builder Magazine as the Grand Winner for Best Master-Planned Community in the U.S, Nexton offers a diverse range of housing options, expansive green spaces, and a thriving commercial hub. Nexton's sustained success is the direct result of a strategic public-private partnership.  
*Speaker(s): Alison Simmons, AICP, Director, Berkeley County Planning and Zoning  
Brent Gibaldo, Brookfield Properties*
- 9:00 AM**     **Mobile Tour of Downtown Summerville**  
**10:30 AM**  
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