

Scenario A: Main Street, City of Not-Charleston

FACT: In the City of Not-Charleston, garbage on Main Street is picked up at 4 am to minimize impact to pedestrians and businesses during the day.

- Fancy Restaurant always puts their garbage cans out at the correct time (after bar close, at 2 am)
- Coffee Shop next door always puts their garbage cans out after they close up at 5 pm. Coffee Shop is a small business owned by a veteran, who uses a wheelchair. He has one employee. His employee has night blindness, so she can't drive at night.
- The coffee shop is really narrow, so the employee can't push the cans through the restaurant. She has to go out the back door and push the garbage can through the narrow alley adjoining the restaurant. The business cannot afford to hire another employee.
- Fancy restaurant has complained to the Coffee Shop owner that the restaurant guests sometimes have to wait on the sidewalk next to the garbage cans. They have gotten some negative reviews on TripAdvisor.
- The situation gets more tense when a car runs into one of the Coffee Shop garbage cans at 7 pm one evening. No one is hurt, but there is a large crack in the can. Heavy cream starts leaking onto the sidewalk. A woman in heels slips and falls and twists an ankle and ruins her dress. The Fancy Restaurant manager pledges to pay for her dry cleaning but she is threatening to sue Fancy Restaurant, Coffee Shop, and the City of Not-Charleston.
- The next day the frustrated Fancy Restaurant manager calls the City to complain. He is sympathetic to the owner of Coffee Shop, but the situation is not sustainable as someone has gotten injured and Fancy Restaurant is losing money and may get sued.

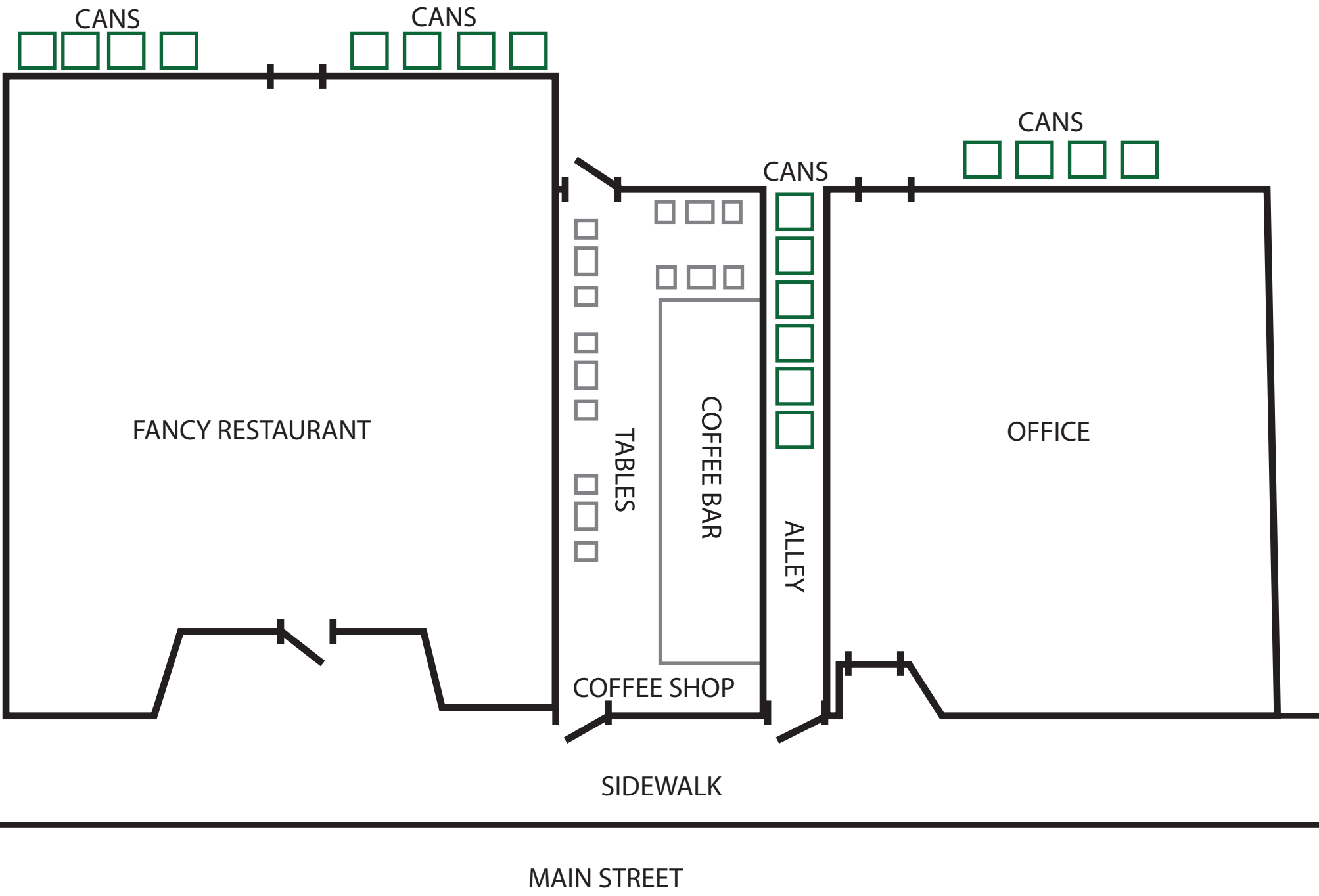
Scenario B: Possum Trot Lane, City of Not-Charleston

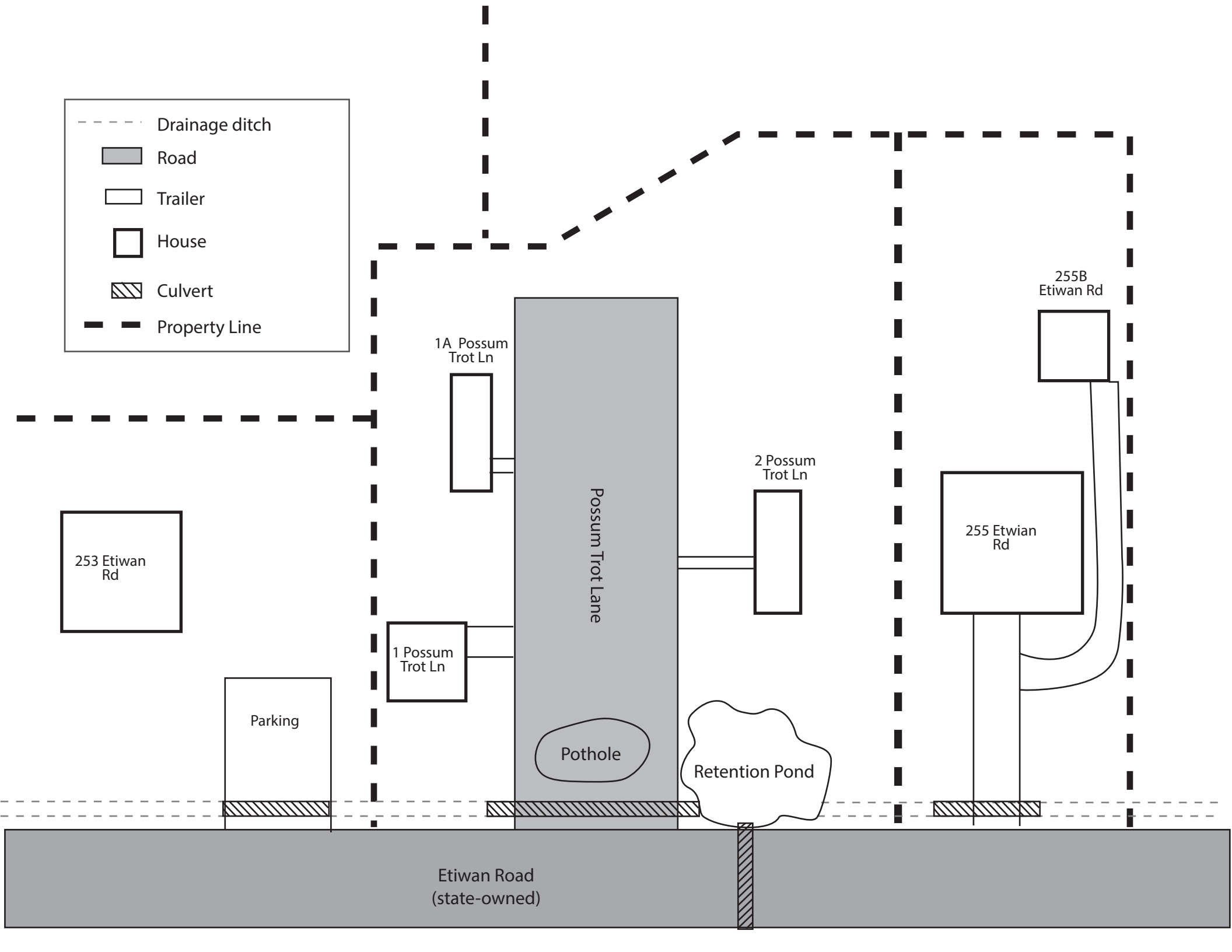
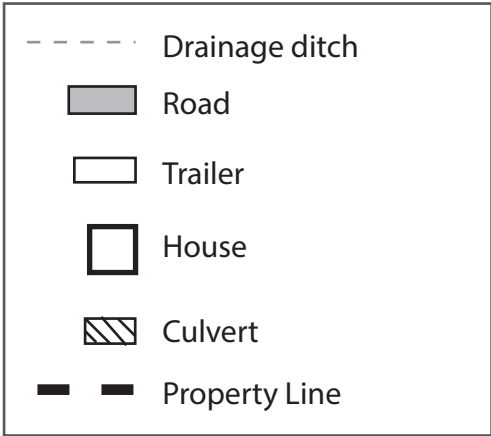
FACT: Public money cannot be spend on maintaining or improving privately-owned roads.

FACT: Drainage issues are managed by whichever entity owns the “right of way,” or the road and the land on either side of the road. That entity is also responsible for the drainage pipes under the road.

FACT: City ordinance requires residents to maintain their property frontage up to and including the gutter on the road.

- The residents of Possum Trot Lane live on a single piece of property that includes the lane itself. If we were to look up the ownership on the County Assessor’s website, we would see that it is deeded to Stephen Stephenson, who died five years ago.
- Possum Trot Lane is perpendicular to a state-owned road. There is a big pothole on the lane where it meets the road.
- There is a retention pond on Possum Trot Lane. A ditch runs along the state owned road, with culverts under Possum Trot Lane and the state-owned road.
- The four residents on Possum Trot Lane are all on fixed incomes and over the age of 70. Two are active but slowing down. Two are house-bound. This has made it harder for the residents to clear the ditches that run through the property.
- Rising sea levels and more frequent rain bombs in the summer have made flooding more of an issue on Possum Trot Lane, which is in a low-lying area. During one week in August, there is an exceptionally high tide three days in a row, and it rains really hard all three days. The retention pond has overflowed into the lane and there is standing water in the yard. For about an hour each day there was too much water on Possum Trot Lane for residents to be able to leave. Fortunately, there were no medical emergencies during that time.
- Unfortunately, the garbage carts on Possum Trot floated up and turned on their sides. The two able residents had to clean up all the garbage, and it was really hot and gross out. One of them called the Citizen Services line to ask for assistance with drainage and the pothole on the lane.





30 Minute Activity

TEAM B

Staff member:

Scribe:

Spokesperson:

Question 1: What facts, issues, and/or groups should be taken into account when the City of Not-Charleston decides on a course of action?

Question 2: What course of action should the City of Not-Charleston take?

30 Minute Activity

TEAM A

Staff member:

Scribe:

Spokesperson:

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30 Minute Activity: Staff Instructions

Staff member:

Materials: drawing pad & sticky notes, markers, clipboard & pen, handouts.

Ask residents to self-nominate for a scribe and a spokesperson.

Please say: We are going to read a fictional scenario that will get us thinking about decision-making in local government. This scenario is definitely not set in the City of Charleston. We are then going to brainstorm different ideas about how staff should respond to the scenario. There are no right answers, although I will weigh in if a suggestion is not possible.

8-10 MINUTES: Read the scenario and the questions out loud, or ask a participant to read. Once you have finished reading, ask residents for first impressions.

10-15 Ask participants to brainstorm what facts, issues, and/or groups should be taken into account, and then brainstorm possible courses of action. Put the ideas on sticky notes on the big pad of paper.

5-10 MINUTES Finalize answers by having participants come to a consensus (or at least a majority vote) and have the scribe write it down.

At the 30 minute mark, we will have the spokespersons present each group's answers.

Questions:

Question 1: What facts, issues, and/or groups should be taken into account when the City of Not-Charleston decides on a course of action?

Question 2: What course of action should the City of Not-Charleston take?

Utility Companies' & Agencies' Responsibilities within City limits (non-exhaustive list)

Dominion Energy

- Power line & pole maintenance
- Start/stop electric service
- Tree trimming around power lines

SCDOT

- Highway repaving
- Maintenance of ROW around state-owned roads (including drainage)
- Traffic management on state-owned roads

Charleston Water System

- Sewer (not stormwater)
- Wastewater treatment
- Water
- Fire hydrant maintenance

Internet Service Providers

- Cable/Internet lines
- Power pole maintenance (for poles that they own)

Charleston County

- Repaving roads (other than highways)
- Maintenance of ROW around County-owned roads (including drainage)
- Traffic management on state-owned roads
- Mental health services
- Libraries
- School District
- Elections
- Recycling
- Property Assessments
- Consolidated Dispatch
- County Parks & Recreation Commission
- Mosquito control
- Family & circuit courts
- Jail
- Marriage licenses

City Department Responsibilities (non-exhaustive list)

Executive

- Oversees City government
- Special projects
- Liaises with other government agencies and media
- Advocates for resident concerns at City Council
- Shapes policy by proposing ordinances
- Appoints members of boards and commissions

Fire Department

- Responds to fires & medical emergencies
- Educates public about fire prevention & safety
- Inspects commercial properties for permitting processes

Housing & Community Development

- Runs the Hope Center
- Manages services for people experiencing homelessness
- Manages home rehabilitation program

Livability/Tourism

- Code enforcement
- Building Compliance
- Quick Response Squad
- Central Business District
- STR Enforcement
- Tourism Enforcement

Parks/Capital Projects

- Plans/manages construction of new facilities, parks & streetscapes
- Manages City-owned trees
- Maintains City-owned or leased grounds & gardens
- Manages Design Review Committee

Planning, Preservation & Sustainability

- Researches and does outreach about policy best practices
- Oversees committees/boards dealing with land use, architecture, & historic preservation
- Liases with business community & neighborhood associations
- Maintains sidewalk request list

City Department Responsibilities (non-exhaustive list)

Police Department

- Works to prevent violent crime
- Provides traffic enforcement
- Responds to disruptions to livability and large unpermitted events
- Provides animal control services
- Works to communicate safety issues or disruptions to daily life to the public

Public Service

- Provides garbage and trash services
- Provides street sweeping
- Fills potholes
- Fixes sidewalks on City-owned streets

Recreation

- Manages permits for events at recreation facilities
- Manages aquatics programming
- Manages adult and youth sports & recreational programs

Stormwater

- Maintains City drainage network
- Provides educational outreach about the floodplain system
- Improves drainage system with new projects
- Reviews stormwater impacts in new building projects

Traffic & Transportation

- Reviews and coordinate handicap parking requests
- Implements traffic calming
- Manages parking permissions/restrictions
- Manages traffic signals, markings and signage
- Manages street blocking permit requests