



January 8, 2024

**ATTN: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Office For Coastal Management
2234 South Hobson Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29405**

RE: Letter of Support for Southbridge East Habitat Restoration Planning Project

Dear Committee,


The Southbridge Civic Association (SBCA), Southbridge Community Development Corporation (SBCDC), and the South Wilmington Planning Network (SWPN) are proud to support the City of Wilmington, in partnership with the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control Coastal Program's funding request for the "Southbridge East Habitat Restoration Planning Project." Collectively, we are a collaborative partnership of Southbridge residents and government, nonprofit and private agencies.

The Southbridge East Habitat Restoration Planning Project represents a unique opportunity to reduce flooding, enhance resiliency in the Southbridge community, accomplish ecological restoration, improve water quality in the Christina River and create recreational opportunities for Southbridge residents and visitors. The proposed project area has been identified as a restoration priority for the Southbridge community. Furthermore, the goals of the proposed project directly align with SWPN'S mission to increase the resiliency of Delaware's front-line communities. Specifically, the project will support several objectives outlined under the Resilience to Climate Change (RCC) section of the [Southbridge Neighborhood Action Plan \(SNAP\)](#), and builds upon the success of the recently completed Southbridge Wilmington Wetland Park to advance the City of Wilmington's efforts to improve flood resiliency in Southbridge. These types of projects are vital to the health, future, and adaptability of the Southbridge neighborhood and the City of Wilmington as a whole.

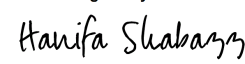
Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at:
SouthWilmingtonPlanningNetwork@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Sonya Dryden
President, Southbridge Civic Association

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Hanifa Shabazz
Interim Executive Director, Southbridge Community Development Corporation

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Britt Salen
Co-Chair, South Wilmington Planning Network

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