

COMMUNITY MEETING - PHASE II: SOUTH SANTEE

BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES WITH NATURE



What you love about your community:

- Community bonds, tight-knit and caring (Strong relationships, caring for all children, mutual respect, and love for one another)
- Rooted in the land (Strong ties to gardening, the environment, and maintaining a clean and safe home-place)
- Peace and quiet (A calm, rural lifestyle, surrounded by forest, fresh air, and nature)
- Faith and safety (Churches are strong anchors in a safe, low-crime community)



Challenges you face:

- Neglect from County and State (Residents pay taxes but feel forgotten, little maintenance or support for basic needs)
- Severe mosquito problem (Standing water from flooding and lack of spraying make it unsafe for kids to play outside)
- Flooding and unsafe roads (South Santee Rd., Collins Creek Rd., and other roads flood regularly; no guardrails or lighting make them dangerous)
- Lack of infrastructure (Ditches haven't been cleaned in 5–10+ years; roads erode; bridges are unsafe; no sidewalks or parks)



General issues we heard:

- Need streetlights and guardrails (Critical for safety, especially on South Santee Rd)
- Need sidewalks and recreation (Parks and walkable areas are needed for safe exercise and community wellness)
- Health concerns (Mosquito-borne disease risks, unpleasant water smells, and increased wildlife (alligators, snakes, armadillos))
- Neglect from County and State (Residents pay taxes but feel forgotten, little maintenance or support for basic needs)



Top Priorities / Urgent Issues (focused on Nature-Based Solutions)

- Ditch cleaning and drainage improvements (Flooding worsens every year due to clogged ditches, standing water creates unpleasant water smells and mosquito problems)
- Flooding hot spots (724 & 761 South Santee Rd., behind Mt. Zion AME, Collins Creek Rd., Senior Center.)
- Rain driven flooding (No tidal issues, but creek overflows and drainage failures are severe. Water can sit over a week after a heavy rain)
- Loss of access to clean water (Residents worry about contamination and loss of fishing spaces like Collins Creek)



Notes / Comments:

Key Takeaways:

South Santee is a **strong, peaceful**, and **close-knit rural community** that continues to thrive despite being underserved. Residents face urgent challenges from **flooding, mosquito infestation, road safety**, and a **lack of infrastructure maintenance**. Investment in **drainage, street safety, parks**, and **maintenance** is critical to ensuring South Santee's resilience and quality of life.