

## **EMS Access Lane Blossoms on Isle of Palms with Native Beauty**

Isle of Palms County Park, in collaboration with the City of Isle of Palms, recently completed an exciting and impactful project: the development of a new EMS access lane designed to improve emergency response capabilities along one of the busiest stretches of beach.

This dedicated lane allows ambulances to park with offshore power directly adjacent to high-traffic areas, ensuring that first responders can reach individuals in need quickly, efficiently, and safely - especially during peak visitation times.

This initiative not only enhances public safety but also reflects a strong commitment to environmental stewardship. As part of the project, a comprehensive planting plan was implemented to support the local ecosystem and beautify the area. The landscaping team focused on native species, including "Little Goldstar" rudbeckia, butterfly milkweed, coral honeysuckle, lance-leaved coreopsis, beautyberry, dwarf palmetto, sweetgrass, and several varieties of switchgrass.

In total, more than 400 native plants were installed. These additions will help strengthen pollinator populations, attract butterflies for visitors to enjoy, and promote long-term ecological health.

To further reduce environmental impact, the access lane was constructed using Turfstone grass pavers. This permeable paving solution minimizes impervious surface area and storm water runoff, while also helping to lower ground surface temperatures and preserve soil integrity. The visual impact is subtle and blends naturally with the surrounding landscape, maintaining the park's coastal charm.

Overall, this project represents a successful partnership between public safety and environmental sustainability. It demonstrates how thoughtful design and collaboration can result in improvements that benefit residents, visitors, and the fragile coastal ecosystem alike.

The EMS access lane is a meaningful addition to Isle of Palms County Park, reinforcing its role as a safe, welcoming, and environmentally conscious destination for all.