

# Vertical Obstructions: A Challenge for Mosquito Control Pilots



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# History of Aerial Spraying

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>
1956 – 1986	contracted pilots – their aircraft
1986 – present	BCMC – our helicopters and planes
1989 – present	communications industry – proliferation of vertical obstructions
1999	78 vertical obstructions
2005	199 vertical obstructions

# Aerial Spray Program (1<sup>st</sup>)



# Aerial Spray Program (2<sup>nd</sup>)



























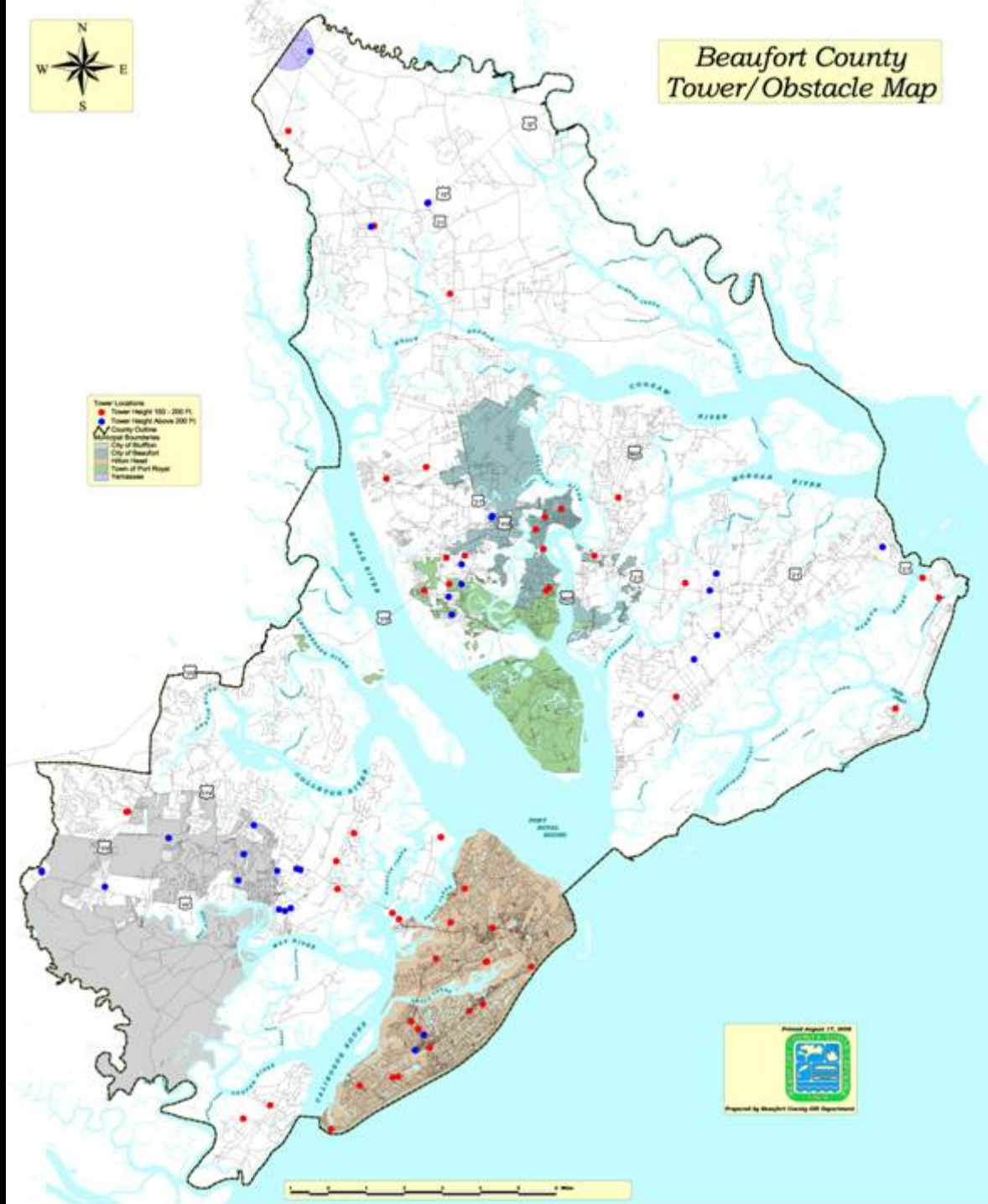


**VOs: 150-200 ft**

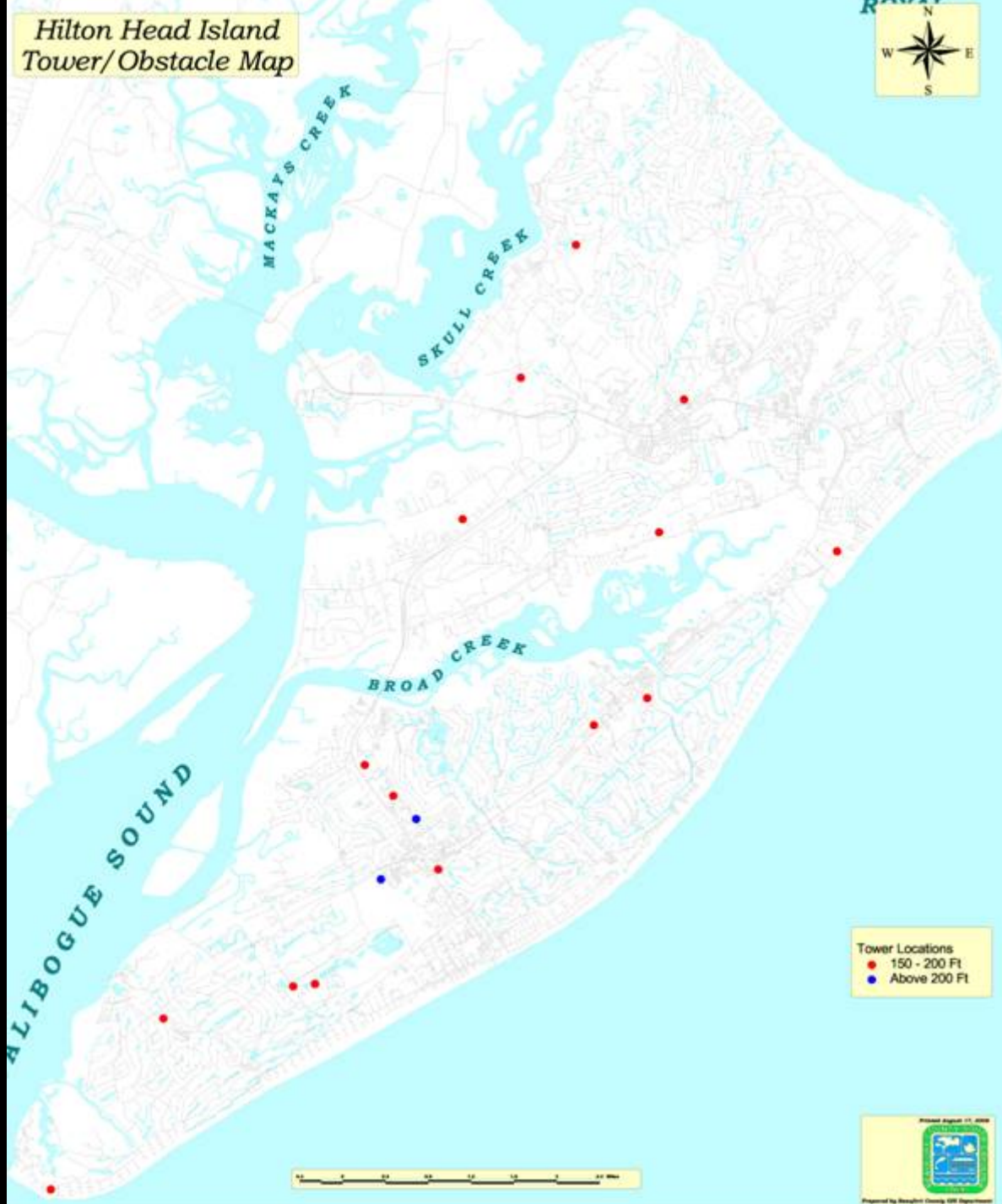
**5 Municipalities 25**

**Unincorporated 26**

**Total 51**



# Hilton Head Island Tower/Obstacle Map



Tower Locations  
● 150 - 200 Ft  
● Above 200 Ft









# Lighted Tower Ordinance

Meetings



Planning Commission



Land Management Committee



County Council (3 Readings)

# Misinformation


- “. . . lighted tower ordinances do not exist throughout the country for mosquito control”. However, Lee County (Ft. Meyers, FL), East Baton Rouge Parish (Baton Rouge, LA), and St. Tammany Parish (near New Orleans, LA) have these ordinances in place; further, VERIZON supported the ordinance in St. Tammany Parish
- “. . . at least 6,100 vertical obstructions (over 100 feet) exist throughout Beaufort County”. “. . . 3,139 structures exist between 171 to 242 feet”. However, if either statement is true, then about 10 or 5 structures exist per square mile, respectively

# Lighted Tower Ordinance

**1<sup>st</sup> Compromise (PC):** do not require strobe lights and, instead, rely on reflective tape to illuminate towers during twilight and throughout the day







No Visual Aide





# Lighted Tower Ordinance (Continued)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Compromise (LMC):** raise the minimal height for lighted towers from 100 feet to 150 feet AGL

**3<sup>rd</sup> Compromise (CC, LMC, PC, LMC, CC):** exempt existing towers and focus only on new towers

# Recommendation:

Vote **YES** to approve the proposed ordinance for the lighting of all vertical obstructions between 150 - 200 feet AGL



# Features of New Ordinance

- collocation, collocation, collocation!!!
- all structures at least 150 feet high must have strobe lights (except the current 16 wireless towers; all other current structures must have lights within 9 months . . . .)
- structure must be removed when it is abandoned for 60 days
- structures at least 150 feet high within a regional utility corridor must depict orange aviation marker balls

# Rely On The Media

“Structures Have Pilots in Uproar: Unpermitted Towers Put Sprayers in Danger”

“Mosquito Control Pilot to Test Towers”

“County Looks to Shine Light On Towers”

“Helping Visibility: County Votes to Require Lights on Cell Towers”

“Lights On . . . County Staffers Say It's A Safety Issue, But Tower Owners Say They've Already Promised Nearby Residents Their Towers Will Stay Dark”

# If You Pursue a Lighted Tower Ordinance . . . .

- Conduct your discussions with FACTS and only FACTS
- Do not be intimidated by “misinformed” attorneys and arrogant experts
- Remain steadfast with your primary goal: to provide a safer aerial spray program for your dedicated pilots and support personnel

Comments or Questions . . . .

