



City of Charleston Open Data Report 2024

From: Open Data Team

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1. Open Data Overview

The city first began releasing public data through a geospatial Open Data Portal in 2013. In 2016 the city became an active member of the White House Police Data Initiative (PDI) and began publishing city policing data.

On January 26, 2021, City of Charleston Council adopted the City's Open Data Policy that outlined the City's intent to:

- Memorialize our pledge to an open and transparent government.
- Provide a framework to proactively release publishable data.
- Provide a framework to ensure we are good stewards of our citizen's data through defined roles, responsibilities, and accountability mechanisms.

2. Program Implementation and Governance

Open Data Coordinators (ODCs)

The adopted policy dictated the creation of an Open Data Management team, made up of representatives from every department that work together to implement the open data plan.

An Open Data Coordinator's (ODC) Guidebook was created to assist ODCs in their role.

Figure 1.1 illustrates the annual cycle the Open Data Management team follows to implement the City's Open Data Policy.

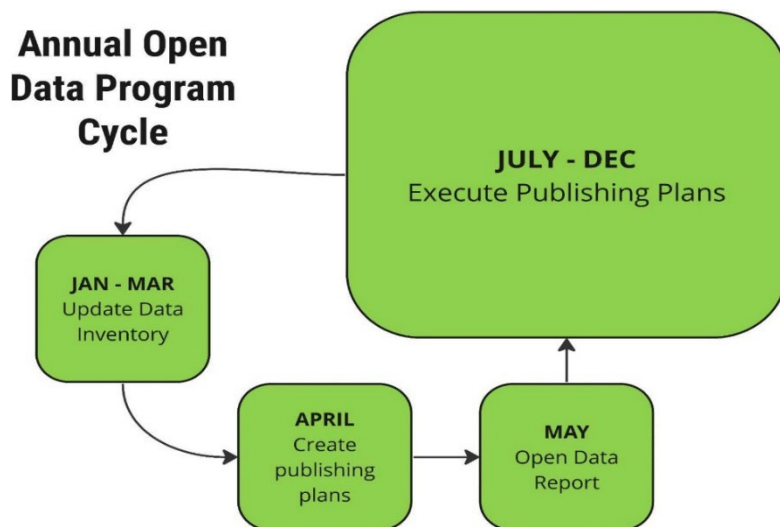


Figure 1.1 Open Data Program annual cycle

ODCs meet regularly to implement the City's Open Data Policy and work together to:

- Maintain a comprehensive inventory of datasets held by their respective departments.
- Identify datasets to be published on the Open Data Portal and determine appropriate update frequency.
- Develop publication standards with the Legal Department to assess the relative level of risk and public benefit associated with potentially sensitive, non-protected information.
- Establish a plan and timeline for publishing data fit to be shared publicly.
- Serve as a key point of accountability for timelines and questions about data sets.
- Coordinate with IT to adopt and implement appropriate standards and practices addressing privacy, data licensing, metadata, and the like.
- Provide quarterly progress reports on the implementation of the Open Data Plan.

ODCs catalog city datasets into a comprehensive inventory. Datasets are assigned a publishing prioritization (Figure 1.2). Publishing plans are created for public datasets with high demand / value.

		Public Demand / Value			
Classification		P2	P2	P1	PUBLIC
		P3	P2	P2	SENSITIVE
		P4	P3	P2	PROTECTED
		LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	

Figure 1.2 Open Data Program annual cycle

City Data Inventory

The City Data Inventory is where the ODC's catalog datasets, categorize and assign meta data, and develop publishing plans. The Inventory database is managed through online editing tools. The inventory can be viewed at: <https://innovate.charleston-sc.gov/opendata/inventory/>

Open Data Portal

The Open Data Portal is the City's public facing portal where publicly published data can be searched and downloaded in various formats or accessed directly through programming APIs. Most datasets in the open data portal are updated weekly through automated processes.

<https://data-charleston-sc.opendata.arcgis.com/>

3. Progress Towards Goals of Open Data Program

Inventory and Publishing Progress

The City Data Inventory includes 141 datasets. 94 are classified as public data. The Open Data Team had set a 2023 goal to publish 85% of the 94. As of May 1st, 2024, 58 (62%) of the 94 have been published online. No new data sets were inventoried or published this cycle.

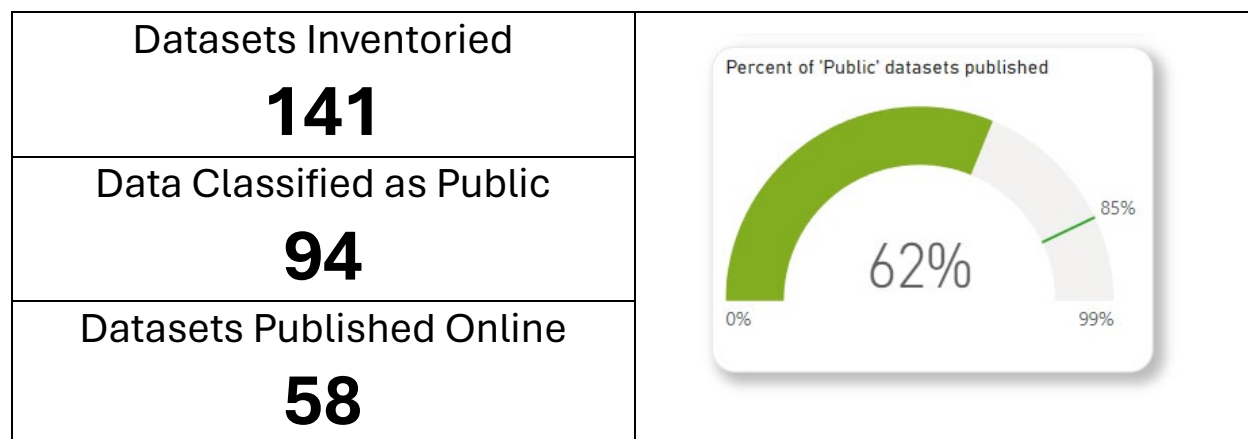


Figure 1.3 Published Datasets

The primary reason that all 94 datasets are not yet available online are the resources and time to develop automated Extract, Transform, and Load (ETL) processes required for each dataset. The ETL process retrieves the data from its storage location, formats and prepares the data for publishing, and then uploads to an online location for public access.

While 22 of the public datasets are not yet published online, most can be requested and manually provided by City staff.

Public Engagement

Open Data Day

The last open data day (2023-2024) was held March 3, 2023. The virtual event featured 13 presentations and had 88 attendees.

The full agenda with data and YouTube links can be found on the [Innovation website](#). Both the [morning session](#) and [afternoon session](#) can be viewed on the [City's YouTube channel](#).

The 2024-2025 Open Data event is being planned for late spring.

4. Assessment of Agency Compliance

The following is a summary of the datasets catalogued in the Open Data Inventory.

Department	Total	Public	Published
Clerk of Council	6	5	0
Executive	4	1	0
Fire	11	1	0
Housing and Community Development	5	2	0
Human Resources	--	--	--
Information Technology (IT)	41	37	37
Livability and Tourism	16	--	1
Multiple Departments	7	6	0
Parks	2	2	0
Planning, Preservation and Sustainability	10	8	0
Police	6	5	4
Public Service	5	5	0
Recreation	1	1	0
Stormwater Management	24	24	15
Traffic & Transportation	3	3	1
	141	100	58

Figure 1.4 Inventoried Datasets

5. Published Datasets and Their Use

The Open Data Portal has 194 items that are downloadable. A full list of the items and the number of times they have been viewed can be found on the [Open Data Inventory](#).

Type	Count
Dashboard	8
Dataset	213
Image	1
Image Service	1
Microsoft Excel	2
Operation View	1
PDF	32
StoryMap	8
Web Map	6
Web Mapping Application	12

Figure 1.5 Open Data Portal Items

Data Publishing Plan for 2024-2025

The ODC Team will continue to develop publishing plans for public datasets using the prioritization matrix with a goal of achieving 85% published within the next 2 years. Information technology will work with the ODC to develop ETL processes for datasets that have a completed publishing plan.

Key Recommendations

Review and Update the Open Data Policy

Under the current policy the Open Data Management Team is chaired and managed by The Chief Innovation Officer. Since this is no longer a position within the City, the policy should be updated with a new Open Data Management Team structure.