

COMPREHENSIVE GREENBELT PLAN

CHARLESTON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
2005-2030 **ADOPTED JUNE 6, 2006**



Prepared for
CHARLESTON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

Prepared by
**GREENWAYS INCORPORATED
WHITE & SMITH, LLC**





COMPREHENSIVE GREENBELT PLAN

CHARLESTON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
2005-2030 **ADOPTED JUNE 6, 2006**

This Charleston County Comprehensive Greenbelt Plan has been funded with proceeds from the Transportation (Half-cent) Sales Tax approved by voters on November 2, 2004 and developed in accordance with County Ordinance #1343 adopted October 19, 2004.





ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Charleston County would like to thank all residents, local, state and federal agencies and civic organizations that have supported the preparation of this Comprehensive Greenbelt Plan. The following groups are recognized for their leadership and contributions to this Plan.

Charleston County Council

Leon E. Stavrinakis, Chair
Timothy E. Scott, Vice-Chair
Curtis E. Bostic
Colleen T. Condon
Henry E. Darby
Ed Fava
Curtis B. Inabinett
Teddie E. Pryor, Sr.

Charleston County Greenbelt Advisory Board

Louise J. Maybank, Chair
Mack Canterbury, Vice Chair
J. Marshall Allen
Raymond H. Anderson, Jr.
Chuck Bennett, Jr.
Edwin H. Cooper III
James Duggan
Thomas Johnson
Warwick Jones
Arthur Ravenel
Henry "Dickie" Schweers
Ray Singleton
Megan Terebus
Lawrence O. Thompson
Rick Jackson (May - September 2005)
John Templeton (May - September 2005)
Ted Summerford (July - August 2005)

Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission

Mark Kearns, Chair
Lisa S. King, Vice Chair
Cheryll N. Woods-Flowers, Secretary-Treasurer
Kevin Hollinshead, Sr.
Mark A. Peper
John Dodds III
Nathaniel Brown
Tom O'Rourke, Executive Director

Roland H. Windham, Jr., County Administrator
Keith Bustraan, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Jennifer Miller, Planning Director
Dan Pennick, Assistant Planning Director
Cathy Ruff, Project Officer, Greenbelt Program

Greenways Incorporated with White & Smith, LLC, Consultant

*Charleston County Greenbelt Program
Planning Department
Lonnie Hamilton III, Public Services Building
4045 Bridge View Drive
North Charleston, South Carolina 29405*



CONTENTS

Foreword by Louise J. Maybank, Chair, Greenbelt Advisory Board

1

INTRODUCTION/OVERVIEW

<i>1.1 Overview.....</i>	<i>1-1</i>
<i>1.2 Greenbelt Advisory Board.....</i>	<i>1-2</i>
<i>1.3 Methodology and Process.....</i>	<i>1-2</i>
<i>1.4 Document Description.....</i>	<i>1-3</i>

2

DATA COLLECTION AND SYNTHESIS

<i>2.1 Overview.....</i>	<i>2-1</i>
<i>2.2 Types of Greenspace.....</i>	<i>2-1</i>
<i>2.3 Inventory of Greenspace.....</i>	<i>2-4</i>
<i>2.4 Current Growth Management Plans.....</i>	<i>2-7</i>
<i>2.5 Regulatory Framework.....</i>	<i>2-16</i>

3

NEEDS IDENTIFICATION

<i>3.1 Overview.....</i>	<i>3-1</i>
<i>3.2 The Need for Greenspace.....</i>	<i>3-1</i>
<i>3.3 Public Input.....</i>	<i>3-4</i>
<i>3.4 Forecasting Future Greenspace Needs.....</i>	<i>3-7</i>

4

GREENBELT SYSTEM

<i>4.1 Overview.....</i>	<i>4-1</i>
<i>4.2 Greenbelt Vision.....</i>	<i>4-2</i>
<i>4.3 Rural and Urban Landscapes Defined.....</i>	<i>4-7</i>
<i>4.4 Greenbelt System Components.....</i>	<i>4-7</i>
<i>4.5 Greenbelt System Map.....</i>	<i>4-25</i>

5

IMPLEMENTATION

<i>5.1 Overview.....</i>	<i>5-1</i>
<i>5.2 Implementation Resources.....</i>	<i>5-1</i>
<i>5.3 Allocation Formula for Greenbelt Funds.....</i>	<i>5-2</i>
<i>5.4 Implementation Budget.....</i>	<i>5-3</i>
<i>5.5 Organizational Framework for Implementation.....</i>	<i>5-3</i>
<i>5.6 Rural and Urban Grants Program</i>	<i>5-6</i>
<i>5.7 Next Steps.....</i>	<i>5-10</i>
<i>5.8 Conclusion</i>	<i>5-11</i>

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Greenspace Glossary.....A-1
Appendix B: Summary of Public Workshops.....B-1
Appendix C: Transportation Sales Tax Spending Plan Ordinance....C-1
Appendix D: Charleston County Greenbelt Bank.....D-1
Appendix E: Conservation Toolbox.....E-1
Appendix F: Funding Sources.....F-1
Appendix G: Benefits of Greenspace.....G-1
Appendix H: BibliographyH-1



Charleston County voters approved in November 2004 a Sales and Use Tax referendum that established a Transportation (Half-cent) sales tax for the purposes of financing roads, mass transit, and greenbelts. In the enabling legislation, Ordinance #1343, the Greenbelts Advisory Board, comprised of fourteen citizens, was established as the “primary advisory body for Greenbelts.” Included in the purpose of the Greenbelts Advisory Board was the charge to develop a Comprehensive Greenbelt Plan to be presented to Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission and Charleston County Council for their approval.

The Greenbelts Advisory Board, with the guidance of Charleston county staff and their consultant, Charles Flink of Greenways Incorporated, Durham, North Carolina, has worked diligently, meeting several times a month for ten months to craft this Comprehensive Greenbelt Plan for the citizens of Charleston County. This Comprehensive Greenbelt Plan designs a format for the expenditure of that portion of the Transportation Sales Tax monies allocated to greenbelts.

The foundation of the Comprehensive Greenbelt Plan is the definition of “Greenbelts for Charleston County.” This definition was agreed upon by the Greenbelts Advisory Board after receiving citizen input at public workshops held in key locations around the County. The major decisions in the Comprehensive Greenbelt

Plan include: the division between rural and urban areas, which is based on the Urban/Suburban Boundary as defined in the County of Charleston Comprehensive Plan; the ratio of 70-30 split for the allocation of the greenbelt proceeds between the rural and urban areas; the use of the greenbelt funds; and the implementation processes for the rural and urban allocations.

Further, the Greenbelt Advisory Board recommends that the Comprehensive Greenbelt Plan be enacted by Charleston County Council as an ordinance. The Greenbelts Advisory Board, also, recommends to Charleston County Council that a referendum be placed on the November 2006 ballot so as to bond the expected Transportation (Half-cent) sales tax proceeds. This would allow the Comprehensive Greenbelts Plan to maximize its potential in the near future, as opposed to spreading out the Transportation sales tax proceeds over twenty-five years.

The Greenbelt Advisory Board presents this Comprehensive Greenbelt Plan to the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission, Charleston County Council and the citizens of Charleston County with great enthusiasm and excitement! We thank you for the opportunity to have created a benchmark document for future greenbelt projects for all residents of Charleston County!

*- Louise J. Maybank,
Chair, Greenbelt Advisory Board*



