



GREENSPACE GLOSSARY

A.1 The Greenspace Glossary & the Definition of Greenbelts

The Greenspace Glossary on page A-3 was developed for the Charleston County Comprehensive Greenbelt Plan in order to provide a common language of greenspace throughout the planning process, and particularly for use during the first round of public workshops. The concepts and types of greenspace included in the glossary were derived from the GAB's definition of greenbelts:

“For the purpose of the Charleston County Greenbelts Plan, the term *greenbelts* will be used to describe a variety of land types. Greenbelts may include lands in rural, suburban and urban settings. Access to greenbelts varies with the types of land acquired and type of use desired. The various types of greenbelts are listed below. They may include, but are not limited to, their sub-categories:

- ***Passive greenspace:*** Trails, greenways, interpretive parks, and access points for water activities, such as fishing, crabbing, boating, etc.
- ***Active greenspace:*** Play fields and parks with low environmental impact
- ***Low Country natural resources:*** Upland forests, swamps, bogs, brackish and freshwater wetlands, Carolina bays, marsh islands, and cypress, backwater, and saltwater marshes
- ***Productive landscapes:*** Lands used for agriculture, silviculture, and mariculture
- ***Heritage landscapes:*** Irreplaceable cultural and historical landscapes unique to the County
- ***Corridors:*** Scenic roadways, abandoned rail lines, utility corridors, and scenic waterways
- ***Natural infrastructure:*** Floodplains, riparian zones, and lands critical to clean water
- ***Reclaimed greenspace:*** Brownfields, abandoned sites,



and other green infill projects

The GAB’s definition continues: “These greenbelts collectively form a protected living system of landscapes that serve the residents, businesses, visitors, and future generations of Charleston County by preserving and improving the health and quality of life for all.”

A.2 List of Acronyms:

ATV - All Terrain Vehicle

BCD - Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester Counties

BCDCOG - The Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments

CCF - Coastal Community Foundation

CHATS - Charleston Area Transportation Study

CMAQ - Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality

DU - Ducks Unlimited. Inc.

EPA - Environmental Protection Agency

FMNF - Francis Marion National Forest

GAB - The Greenbelt Advisory Board

GIS - Geographic Information Systems

GWI - Greenways Incorporated

HUD-CDBG - United States Department of Housing and Urban Development - Community Development Block Grant

ISTEA - Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991

LOS - Level of Service

LRTP - Long Range Transportation Plan

LWCF - Land and Water Conservation Fund

OCRM - Office of Coastal Resource Management

PARD - Parks and Recreation Development Fund

PDR - Purchase of Development Rights

PRC - The Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission

PUD - Planned Unit Development

NRPA - National Recreation and Park Association

NWR - National Wildlife Refuge

RELT - Recreation Land Trust Fund

RTP - Recreational Trails Program

SAFETEA - Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act

SAFETEA LU - Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users

SCDOT - South Carolina Department of Transportation

SCDNR - South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

SCNHC - South Carolina National Heritage Corridor

SCORP - South Carolina Outdoor Recreation Plan

SCPRT - South Carolina Department of Parks Recreation and Tourism

SR2S - Safe Routes to School Program

SRF - State Revolving Fund

STP - Surface Transportation Program

TAB - Transportation Advisory Board

TEA-21 - The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century



CHARLESTON COUNTY GREENBELTS PLAN

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PASSIVE GREENSPACE

Passive Recreation: Emphasizes the open-space aspect of a park, involving a low level of development, including picnic areas and trails.



Trails: Linear routes on land or water with protected status and public access for recreation or transportation purposes.

Greenways: A linear open space established along a natural corridor, such as a river, stream, ridge line, rail-trail, canal, or other route for conservation and recreation purposes.

Interpretive Parks: Parks with guides and/or concentrated informational posts to explain associated views, natural flora and fauna, and other features.

Water Access Points: Areas allowing access to water for activities such as fishing, crabbing, boating, etc.

ACTIVE GREENSPACE

Active Recreation: Requires more intense development and often involves cooperative or team activity, including playgrounds and ball fields.



Play Fields and Parks with Low Environmental Impact: These include ball fields, parks, and golf courses that minimize impervious surface cover, provide setbacks from manicured areas to adjacent creeks and wetlands, and utilize buffers and selective clearing.

PRODUCTIVE LANDSCAPES

Working Landscapes: Landscapes in which agriculture, silviculture and other natural resource based activities are conducted in a way that they are economically viable and conserve habitat for wildlife.



Agriculture: The science, art, and business of cultivating soil, producing crops, and raising livestock; farming.

Silviculture: The care and cultivation of forest trees; forestry.

Mariculture: Cultivation of marine organisms in their natural habitats, usually for commercial purposes.

HERITAGE LANDSCAPES

Cultural and Historical Landscapes: Areas that have an outstanding assemblage of natural, historic, or cultural resources that together represent distinctive aspects of regional heritage worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use. The areas reflect traditions, customs, beliefs, and folk life that are a valuable part of the regional story.



CORRIDORS

Scenic Roadways: Similar to heritage landscapes, scenic roadways provide a sense of place with their natural, historic, or cultural significance. Many roads, including Ashley River Road, Botany Bay Road, Eddingsville Beach Road, Steamboat Landing Road, Manse Road, and Pine Landing Road are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Canopy roads through the county could fall under this category.



Abandoned Rail Lines: Inactive rail corridors can serve as multipurpose public paths (paved or natural). A railroad right-of-way includes the tracks and a specified tract of land on either side of the tracks (generally 100 feet wide).



Utility Corridors: These corridors can also serve as multipurpose public paths (paved or natural).



Scenic Waterways: Designated areas at key locations that will afford users an opportunity to view significant waterways, water features, and wildlife habitat. The Ashley River Corridor is a State Scenic River, designated by the South Carolina General Assembly in 1998.

NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Floodplain: An area of relatively level land that is inundated from time to time. A floodplain may border a stream, lake or river or may be a watercourse in its own right. It is often defined as containing the floodway, which normally is inundated during annual flooding.



Riparian Zones: The land and vegetation immediately adjacent to a body of water, such as a creek, lake, or other perpetual natural watercourse.

RECLAIMED GREENSPACE

Brownfield: An abandoned, idled, or under-used property where past actions have resulted in actual or perceived contamination and where there is an active potential for redevelopment. Cleaning up and reinvesting in these properties takes development pressures off of undeveloped, open land, and both improves and protects the environment.



Green Infill Projects: An *infill* project refers to development that occurs in existing urban settings, taking pressure off the development of raw land. *Green infill* projects refer to the creation of parks and open space in existing urban settings on sites that were formerly developed, such as abandoned parking lots and abandoned commercial sites.

LOW COUNTRY NATURAL RESOURCES

Upland Forest: Upland forests occur where drainage is sufficient so that soils do not become saturated for extended periods of time. Water can either run off or percolate through the soil. The upper canopy is 80% to 100% closed, and sub-canopies of younger trees and shrubs typically exist.

Wetland: A general term applied to swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas which are seasonally or permanently saturated with fresh or saline water, creating a unique naturally occurring habitat for plants and wildlife.



Swamp: A seasonally flooded bottomland with more woody plants than a marsh and better drainage than a bog.

Marsh: A type of wetland, featuring grasses, rushes, reeds, typhas, sedges, and other herbaceous plants (possibly with low-growing woody plants) in a context of shallow water. A marsh is different from a swamp, which is dominated by trees rather than grasses and low herbs. The water of a marsh can be fresh, brackish, or saline. Coastal marshes may be associated with estuaries and along waterways between coastal barrier islands and the inner coast.

Bog: An area having a wet, spongy, acidic substrate composed chiefly of moss and peat in which characteristic shrubs and herbs and sometimes trees usually grow. An area of soft, naturally waterlogged ground.

Carolina Bay: An isolated wetland in natural shallow depressions that is largely fed by rain and shallow groundwater. These bays have an elliptical shape and generally a northwest to southwest orientation.

Marsh Islands: Relatively small islands that lie behind barrier islands and around Sea Islands. There are over 3000 delineated marsh islands along South Carolina's coast.



A.3 Additional Terms:

Greenbelt - an extensive area of largely undeveloped or sparsely occupied land that is associated with a community and set aside to contain development, preserve the character of the countryside and community, and provide open space. See page 2-2 for other commonly used definitions, and page A-1 for the greenbelt definition provided by the GAB.

Greenspace - natural areas, open space, trails, and greenways that function for both wildlife and people; a term often used interchangeably “greenbelts”, “greenways”, and “open space”, to describe a variety of landscapes that community residents feel are worthy of conservation and protection.

Open Space - Areas of natural quality, either publicly or privately owned, designated for protection of natural resources, nature oriented outdoor recreation, and trail-related activities.

Rural Area- is defined to include the West St. Andrews area in West Ashley, Wadmalaw Island, Edisto Island, the St. Pauls area, Hollywood, Meggett, Ravenel, Rockville, Awendaw and McClellanville and portions of Johns Island, West Ashley and East Cooper areas as defined as lying outside the Charleston County Urban/Suburban Area Boundary.

Urban Area- includes the municipalities and unincorporated areas that are located within the Charleston County Urban Suburban Growth Boundary, as defined within the Charleston County Comprehensive Plan. The municipalities and unincorporated lands within this boundary include: Charleston Peninsula, the City of North Charleston, Lincolnville, Mount Pleasant, Isle of Palms, Sullivan’s Island, James Island, Folly Beach, Kiawah Island, Seabrook Island, and portions of Johns Island, West Ashley and East Cooper areas.

Urban Suburban Growth Boundary - the demarcation between the Urban/Suburban Areas and the Rural Areas of Charleston County, as depicted in the adopted Charleston County Comprehensive Plan.

