

Charleston County Greenbelt Program



Greenbelt Advisory Board
May 2, 2017



Transportation Sales Tax



 November 2004 - \$1.3 billion:

- \$221 million for Greenbelts
 - \$36 million for CCPRC

 November 2016 - \$2.1 billion:

- \$210 million for Greenbelts

<http://www.charlestoncountygreenbelt.org>



Greenbelt Advisory Board (GAB)

- **Ordinance 1343:**

- Primary Advisory Body for Greenbelts
- Review and revise Comprehensive Greenbelt Plan every 5 years
- Prepare and deliver to Council findings, recommendations and comments regarding the Plan.
- Receive input from public through extensive public input process

- **Greenbelt Plan:**

- Principal Advisor to Council and continue to solicit public input
- Recommend policy; advocate for Plan implementation
- Evaluate implementation of grants programs



Greenbelt Plan



Corridors

Active
Greenspace

Natural
Infrastructure

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

Passive
Greenspace

Natural
Resources

Heritage
Landscapes

Productive
Landscapes



Greenbelt Goal - 30% of County Lands

Protecting 40,000 acres through the following system components:

- 16,240 acres of rural land
- 10,275 acres within the Francis Marion National Forest
- 5,610 acres of Lowcountry wetlands
- 4,675 acres for Park and Recreation Commission regional parks
- 2,000 acres of urban land
- 1,200 acres of greenway corridors

200,000 Acres
Overall Goal –
30% of County

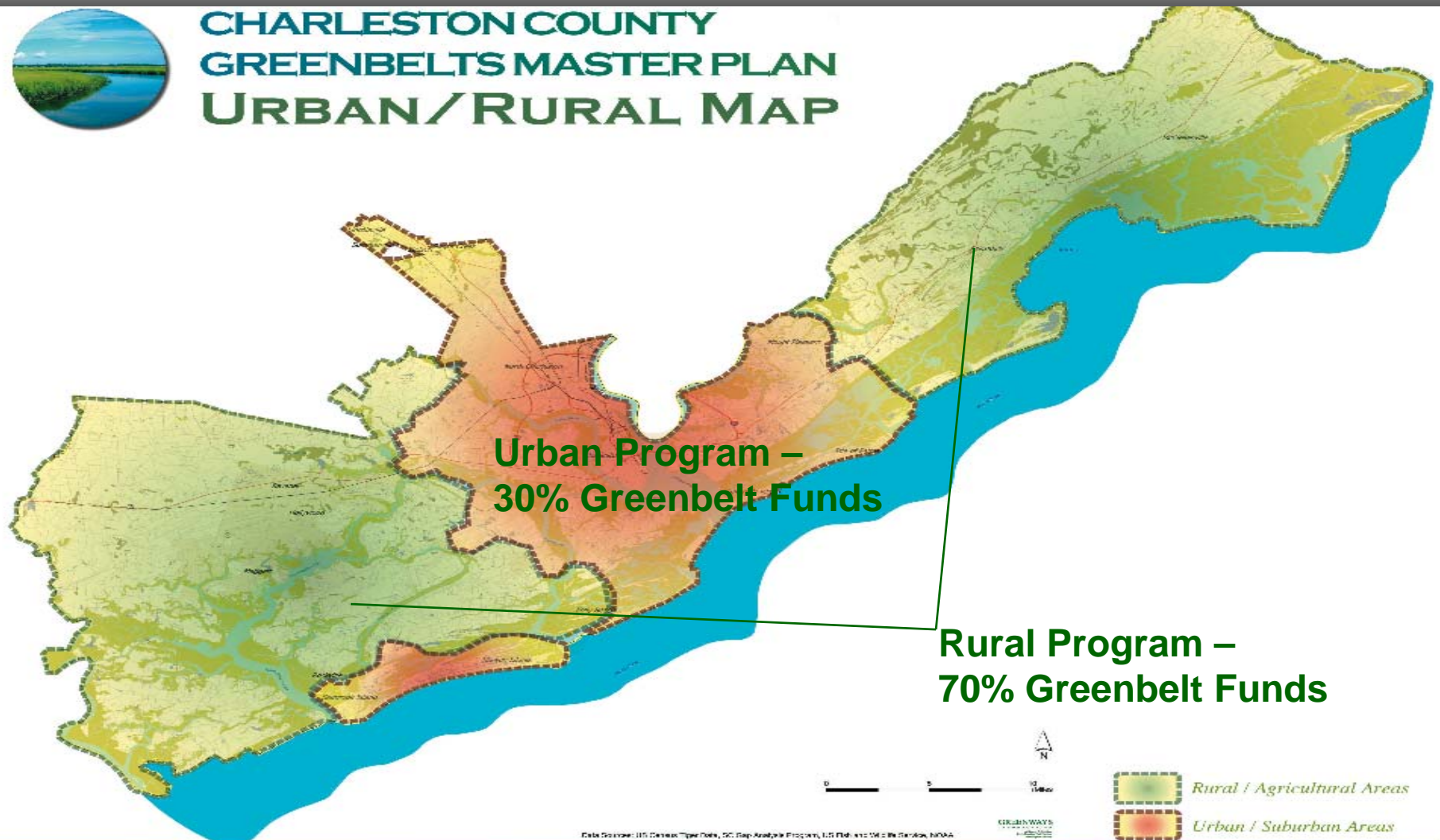
160,000 Acres
Amount
Protected as of
2005



Urban/Rural Programs



CHARLESTON COUNTY GREENBELTS MASTER PLAN URBAN/RURAL MAP



Map Source: US Census Tiger Data, SC Gap Analysis Program, US Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA



Where the Green Goes

\$221 Million

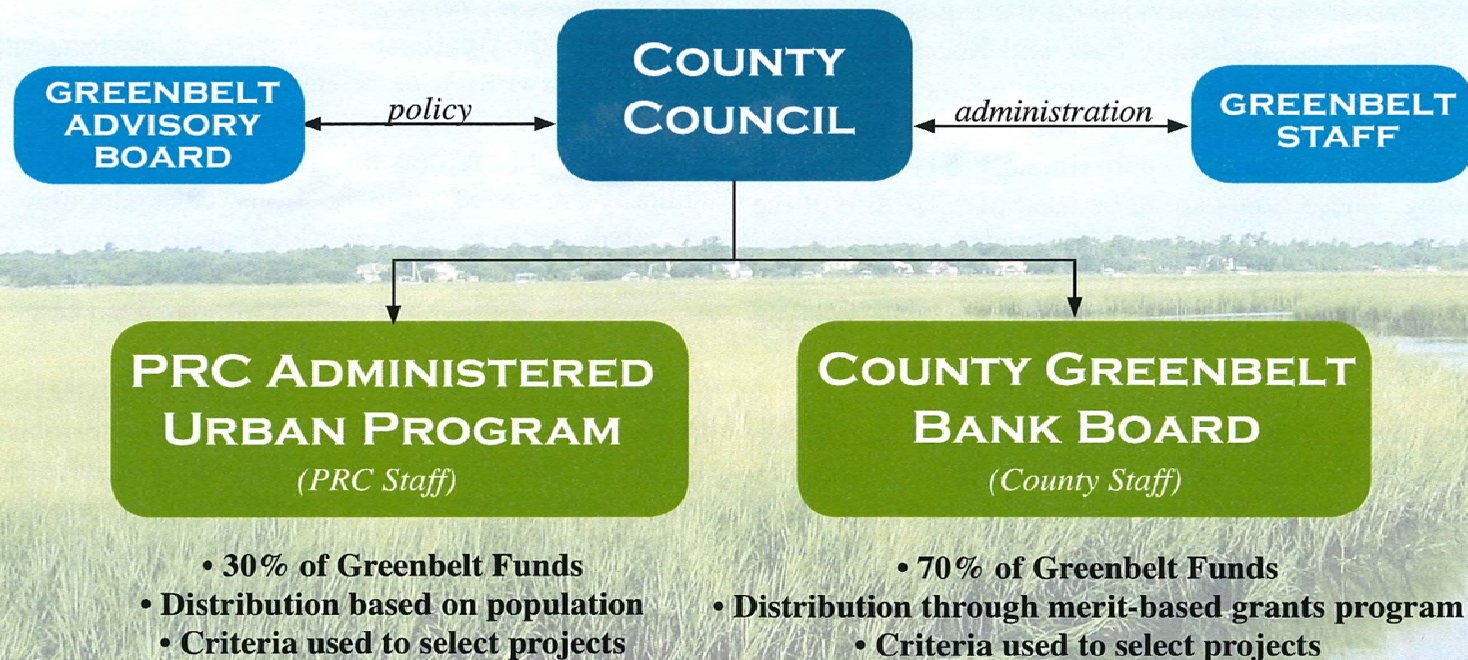
\$36 Million
County
Parklands

\$90 Million
Debt Service and
Program
Administration

\$66.5 Million
Rural Greenbelt
Program

\$28.5 Million
Urban
Greenbelt
Program

*Charleston County Greenbelt Program
Organizational Framework for Implementation*





Finding Land to Preserve



County does not purchase or manage land



Municipalities, other government agencies and non-profit environmental conservation groups team-up with voluntary, willing property owners



County awards greenbelt money as grants to other governments or conservation groups to purchase property or rights



Other governments or conservation groups manage land



Greenbelt Bank Board Functions

- **Ordinance 1424:**

- Award grants to Eligible Greenbelt Fund Recipients
- Receive additional funding from other sources
- Operate program to implement ordinance
- Develop additional guidelines and procedures
- Submit an annual report to Council

- **Greenbelt Plan:**

- Foster partnerships among landowners, governments and non-profits
- Acquire land for conservation
- Administer the Rural Grants Program – evaluate applications and make recommendations to Council



Greenbelt Bank Board Membership

1. Board member of charitable corporation or trust authorized to do business in this State that is actively engaged in the acquisition of interests in land for the purposes of natural resource or land conservation
2. Owner of rural real land property actively engaged in the management and operation of forestlands, farmlands or wildlife habitat.
3. Owner of real property who is actively engaged in the real estate business
4. In business of appraising forestland, farmland, or conservation management
5. Board member of a charitable corporation or trust authorized to do business in this State which is organized for historic preservation purpose
6. Board member of an organization that represents hunting, fishing or outdoor recreation interests
7. In business of banking, finance or accounting
8. A licensed attorney with an emphasis in real estate and or land use law
9. Member at-large









CCPRC & Urban Grants Review Committee

- **Greenbelt Plan:**
 - Administer the Urban Grants Program
 - Assemble an Urban Grant Review Committee comprised of 2 PRC Staff, 2 Charleston County Staff and 2 GAB members to evaluate applications
 - Committee shall craft the evaluate procedure and methodology and present to the GAB for approval
 - Make recommendations to Council for Urban Greenbelt Projects



Land Protected to Date

21,170 acres have already been protected since the implementation of the program in 2007:

-  ***8,195 acres of rural land (50%)***
-  ***4,367 acres within the Francis Marion National Forest (43%)***
-  ***5,047 acres of wetlands (90%)***
-  ***4,857 acres for Park and Recreation Commission regional parks (104%)***
-  ***547 acres of urban land (27%)***
-  ***2 acres of corridors (<1%)***



\$96 million
*Greenbelt
Funds Awarded*

\$121 million
as match



Greenbelt Program Status

	County's Rural & Urban Programs	CCPRC	Totals
Acres Protected	18,158	4,857	21,170
Funds Awarded	96.2 m	\$36 m	\$132.2 m
Funds Remaining	\$2 m	\$0 m	\$2 m



Urban Funds Remaining

Municipality	Funds Awarded	Total Acres	Funds Remaining
Charleston	\$ 9,730,698	173	\$ 155,707
Folly Beach	\$ 218,990	.43	\$ 0
Isle of Palms	\$ 474,305	1.07	\$ 0
James Island	\$ 1,095,896	7.37	\$ 6,234
Kiawah Island	\$ 120,361	0	\$ 0
Lincolnton	0	0	\$ 93,557
Mt. Pleasant	\$ 4,927,161	189.58	\$ 0
N. Charleston	\$ 6,315,000	188.72	\$ 1,575,661
Seabrook Island	\$ 70,000	0	\$ 59,365
Sullivan's Island	\$ 197,774	190	\$ 0
Unincorporated	\$ 3,459,290	21.64	\$ 0
Total	\$ 26,609,475	771.83	\$ 1,890,525



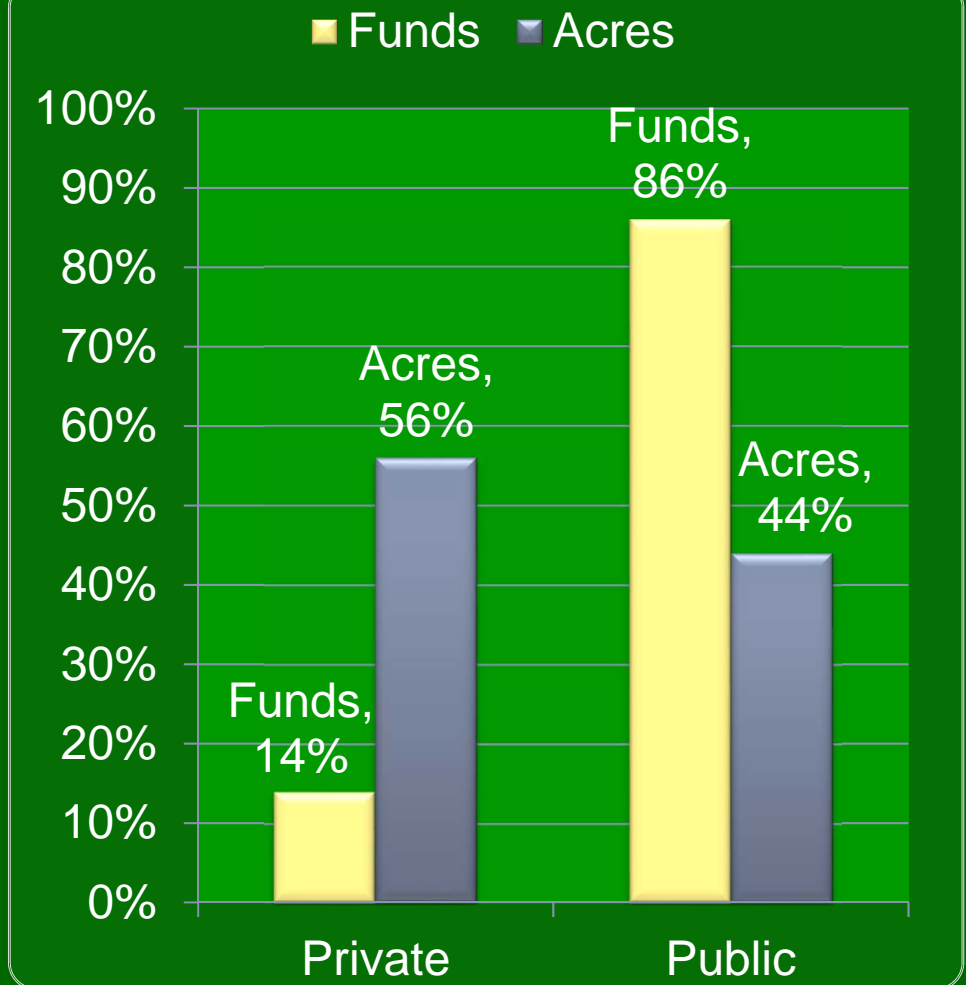
Public and Private Lands

Funds - \$132.2 million

- Private \$ 18.4 m (14%)
- Public \$113.8 m (86%)

Acres Protected – 21,170

- Private 11,846 (56%)
- Public 9,324 (44%)





Next Steps

- Review of Greenbelt Bank Board
- 5 Year Plan Review (Ordinance 1343)
 - “Once completed, the comprehensive greenbelts plan should be reviewed and revised every five (5) years.”
- Process
 - Determine Accomplishments – Inventory
 - Determine Need – Public Input
 - Determine Resources – Conservation Toolbox
 - GAB Recommendations to County Council