

# **CHARLESTON COUNTY GREENBELT PLAN**



**Presentation to Charleston County  
Greenbelt Advisory Board  
January 24, 2018**

CHARLESTON COUNTY • ALTA/GREENWAYS

# Greenbelt Plan Review Tasks

1. Updated Inventory – complete
2. Gather Public Input – ongoing
3. Formulate Recommendations based on Public Input:
  - Greenbelt Definition – need vote
  - Greenbelt Vision – Voted to keep vision “Cities and Villages Surrounded by Green”
  - Greenbelt System Components – need vote
  - Greenbelt Priorities & Criteria – need vote
  - Bonding of Greenbelt Funds – need vote
  - Rural/Urban Allocation – need vote
  - Greenbelt Board structure – need vote

# Greenbelt Plan Review Tasks

## Updated Inventory - Complete

	Total Acreage	% of 2006 Target
<b>Total Protected Since 2006</b>		
<b>Rural Greenbelt Lands</b>	11,397	70%
<b>Francis Marion Forest</b>	11,438	111%
<b>Lowcountry Wetlands</b>	7,900	141%
<b>PRC Regional Parks</b>	5,933	127%
<b>Urban Greenbelt Lands</b>	666	33%
<b>Greenway Corridors</b>	155	13%
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,628</b>	<b>94%</b>

# Greenbelt Plan Review Tasks

## Gather Public Input - Municipalities

- Large Municipalities:
  - 70% urban allocation
  - Flooding Issues
  - Connectivity
  - Public Use Lands
  - Improvements
  - Bond the Funds
  - Option to Use Eminent Domain
- Beach Communities:
  - Dune stabilization and restoration
  - Beach access

# Greenbelt Plan Review Tasks

## Gather Public Input – Stakeholders

- Stakeholders:

(Charleston Moves, Coastal Conservation League, East Coast Land Trust, Edisto Island Open Land Trust, Lowcountry Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, Charleston Waterkeeper):

- Voters believed they were voting for program that was substantially similar to current program
- Maintain 70% rural/ 30% urban, possibly no-allocation method
- High priority to sea islands, blue and green corridors, productive landscapes, passive/active greenspace, natural resources, resilient greenspaces
- Encouraged use of other “tools” in the conservation toolbox
- Offered a sample of criteria

# Greenbelt Plan Review Tasks

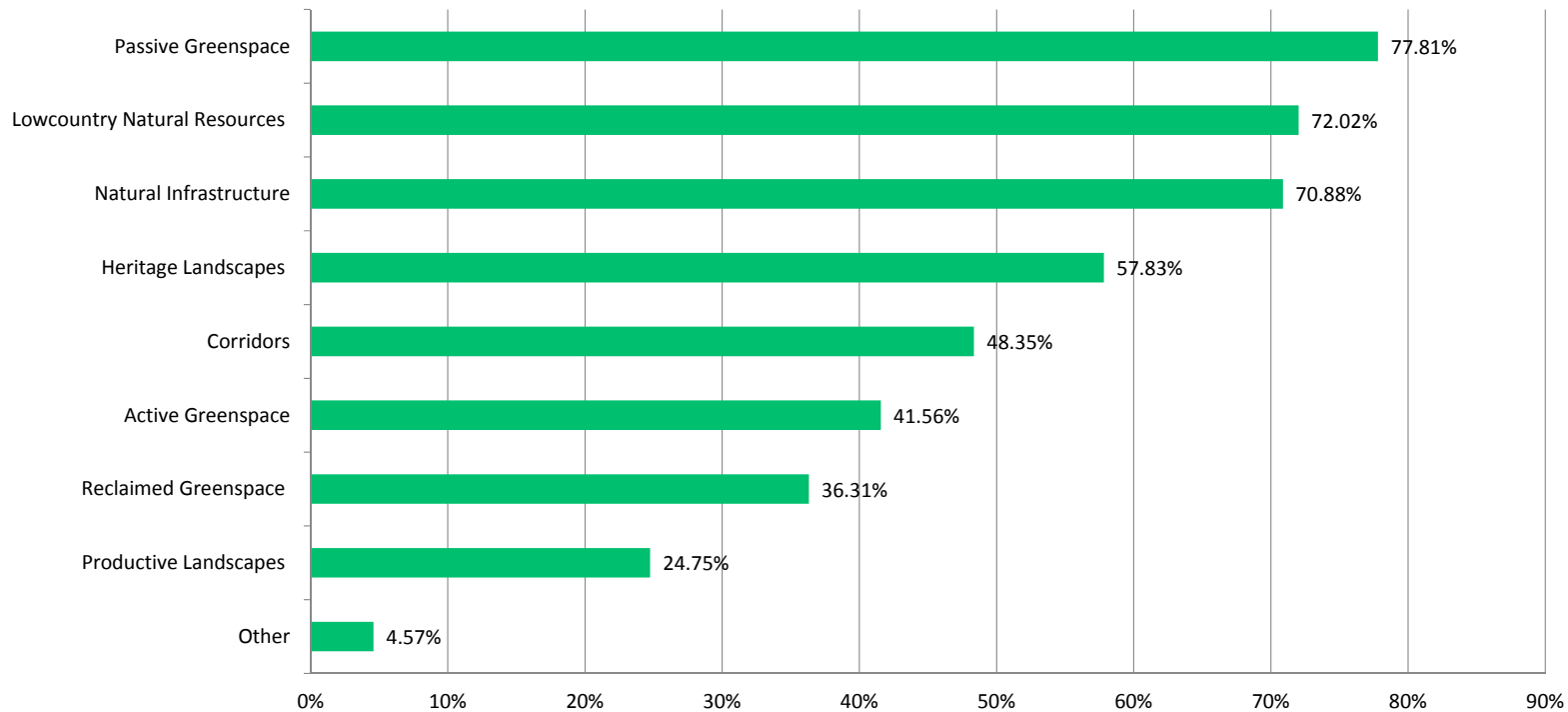
## Gather Public Input – GAB Meetings

- GAB Meeting Comments:
  - GAB should be the body that reviews projects
  - Make sure projects are leveraged with match and partnerships
  - Water corridors should be a priority
  - Base projects on merit
  - Look at program from new perspective, not trying to fit old program into current needs
  - Consider the current 70% rural/30% urban allocation and why it was established to begin with
  - Consider that urban areas have sources of funds that rural does not
  - Bank Board should not be eliminated because it gives the process more objectivity and members have expertise
  - Funds available from current sales tax could be used as transition funding to satisfy muni until decision is made
  - Asked that GAB meet with land trusts and mayors to get their feed back and consider them as a resource; land trusts want to be part of process and assist
  - CCPRC's P2P Plan can be a starting point for connectivity planning/projects
  - Consider the heritage/cultural communities that are being forgotten and forced out due to development; critical to preserve these areas
  - Consider the rural areas

# Greenbelt Plan Review Tasks

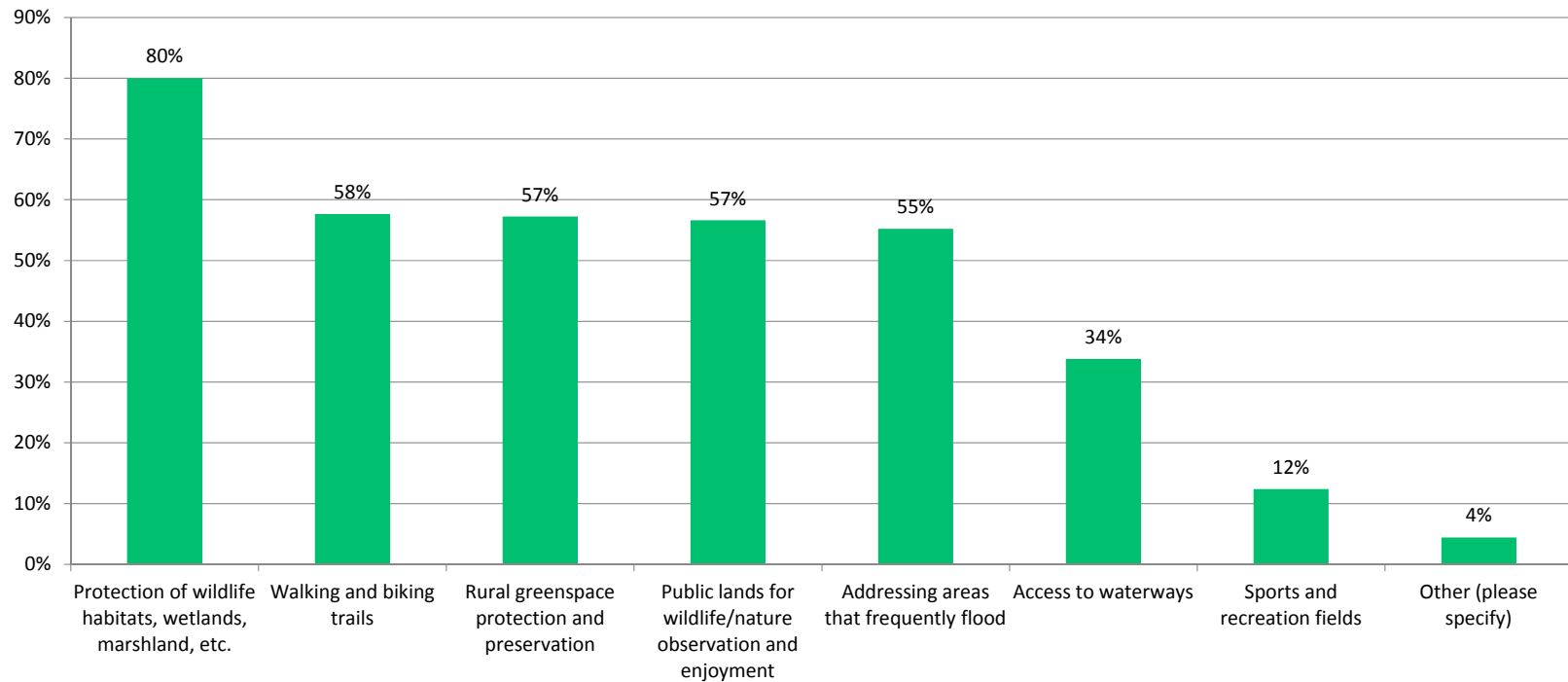
## Gather Public Input – Public Survey

Which of the following landscapes do you feel are most important for the Greenbelt Program? (Select all that apply)



# Public Survey Results

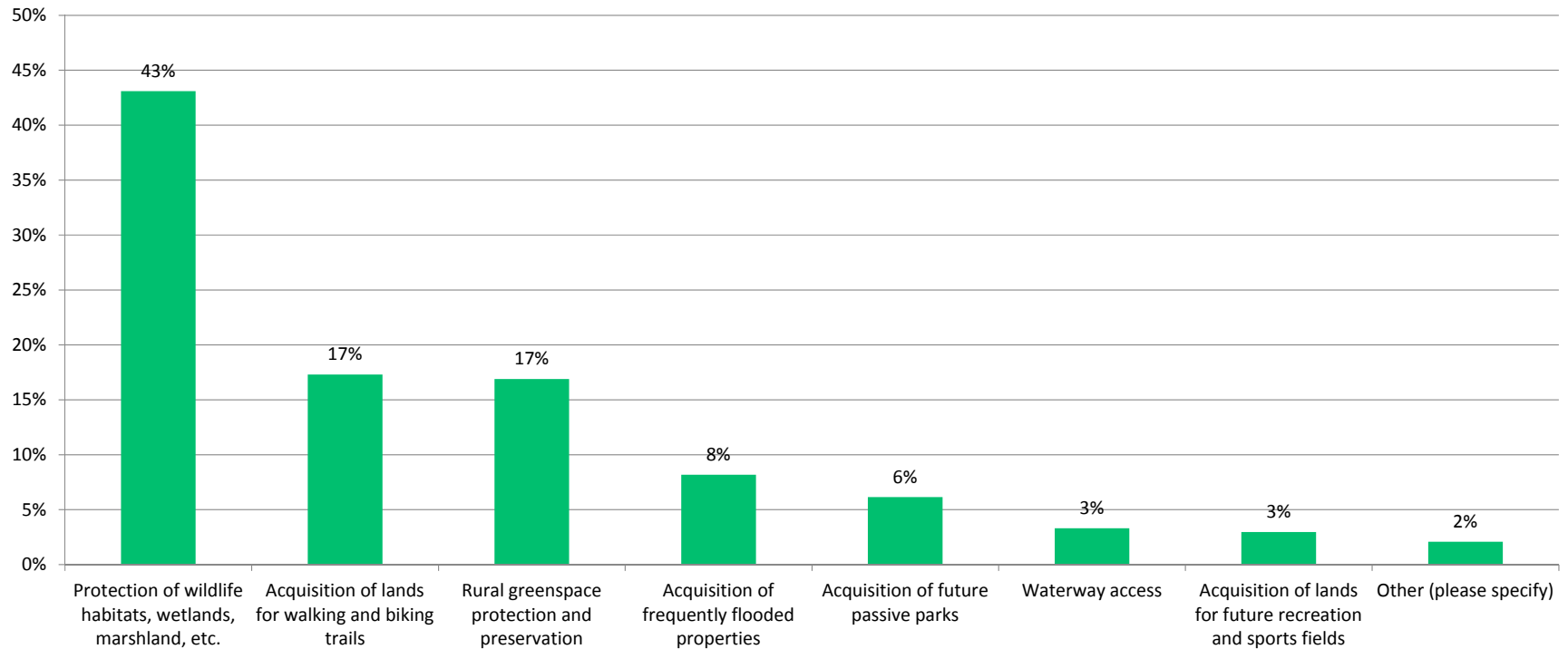
Which of the following do you regard as the most critical areas of need for Charleston County? (Select all that apply)





# Public Survey Results

Where should Charleston County direct most of the funding for the Greenbelt Program? (Select one)



# Greenbelt Plan Review Tasks

- Formulate Recommendations based on Public Input:
  - Greenbelt Definition – need vote
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# Current Greenbelt Criteria

# Current Criteria

## **Tell Us About the Project - 30 Points**

- Distinguishing characteristics - 10 pts
- Location and size - 5 points
- Address public access and use - 5 points
- Project will help to balance land use development - 5 points
- Threat of Loss - 5 points

# Current Criteria

## **What Makes the Project Special - 35 Points**

- Environmental features - 10 points
- Historic and cultural features - 10 points
- Quality of Life - 5 points
- Linkage/connectivity opportunities - 5 points
- Consistent with adopted plans (Greenbelt Plan, etc) - 5 points

# Original Criteria

## **How Can We Make the Project Work - 35 Points**

- Funding and leveraging - 15 points
- Financial partners - 5 points
- Level of public support - 5 points
- Non-financial partners - 5 points
- Implementation - 5 points

# Draft Greenbelt Criteria

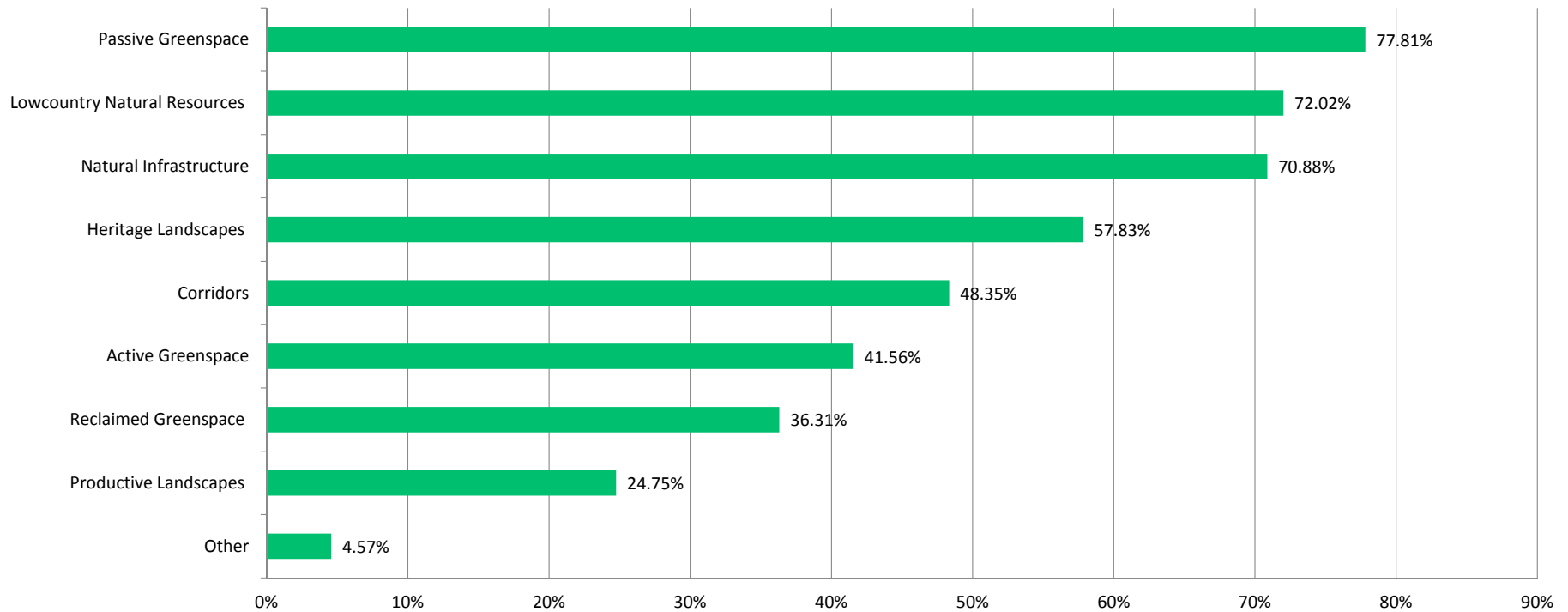
# Greenbelt Definition

- ***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
- ***Lowcountry 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, wildlife habitat, riparian zones, and lands critical to clean water
- ***Reclaimed greenspace:*** Brownfields, abandoned sites, and other green infill projects



# Public Survey Results – Important Landscapes

Which of the following landscapes do you feel are most important for the Greenbelt Program? (Select all that apply)



# Draft Criteria – Greenbelt Definition

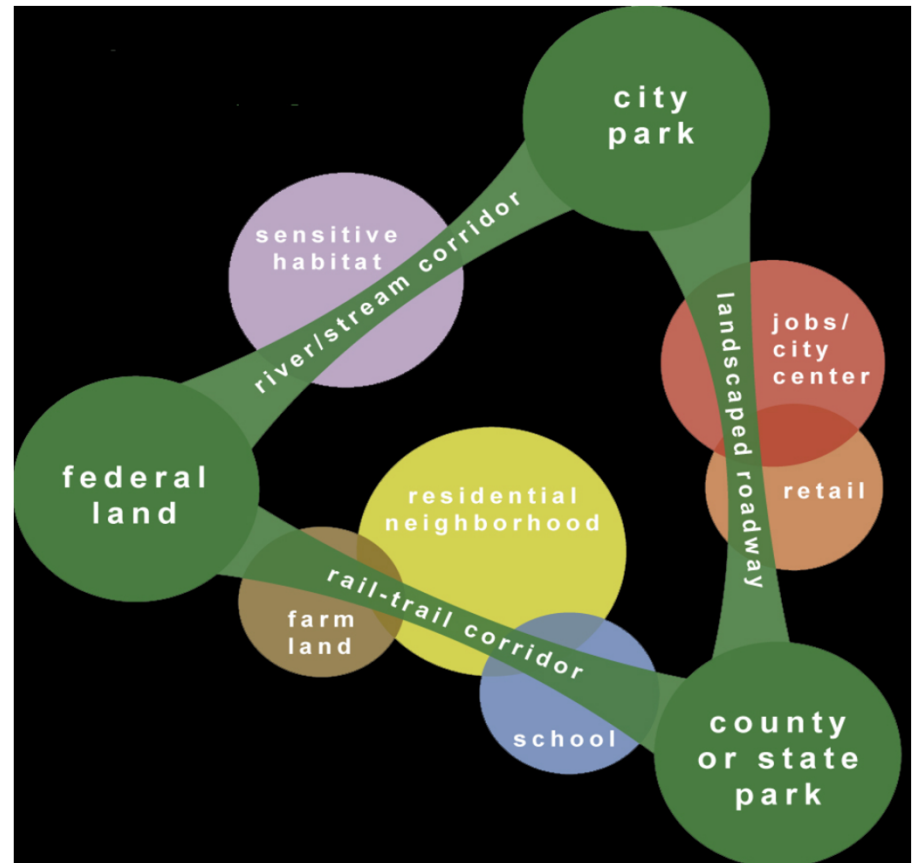
## **Meets Greenbelt Definition?**

- Passive greenspace
- Lowcountry natural resources
- Natural infrastructure
- Heritage landscapes
- Corridors
- Active greenspace
- Reclaimed greenspace
- Productive landscapes

*(Ranked based on the Public's response to Question 4 of the Survey)*

# Greenbelt Vision

- Reaffirmed vision -“Cities and Villages Surrounded by Green”
- Based on Hubs and Spokes Model



# Greenbelt Criteria – Greenbelt Vision

## **Meets the Greenbelt vision:**

- Trail/corridor connected to a greenspace
- Trail/corridor connected to another trail/corridor
- Trail/corridor connected to a neighborhood and/or school
- Trail connecting to a retail or jobs center
- Trail where none currently exists (none exists within ??? miles)
- Provides linkage to a blue trail
- Greenspace connected to a trail/corridor
- Greenspace connected to another greenspace
- Greenspace connected to a neighborhood and/or school
- Greenspace connected to a retail or jobs center
- Protected greenspace where none currently exists (none exists within ??? miles)

***(Ranked on public's, municipalities' and GAB's stated desires for connectivity issues to be addressed.)***

# Greenbelt System Components

**Rural Greenbelt Lands** - Represents a minimum “target” recommendation by the consultant. Desired acreage would be conserved through various acquisition methods using Conservation Toolbox and Sales Tax proceeds, specifically targeting lands noted in the Comprehensive Plan as high priority Resource Management areas.

**Francis Marion National Forest** - Based on multi-agency MOU that identifies this as the amount of private land holdings within the Francis Marion National Forest Proclamation boundary.

**Lowcountry Wetlands** - Represents an “infill” and “as needed” recommendation by the consultant for both rural and urban landscapes where additional wetland protection is needed.

**PRC Regional Parks** - Based on PRC Open Space Analysis.

**Urban Greenbelt Lands** - Represents a minimum "target" recommendation by the consultant; takes into account wish lists provided by North Charleston, Mt. Pleasant, Charleston and beach communities. Also based on PRC Open Space Analysis for urban areas.

**Greenway Corridors** - Based on a 200 mile system of greenways throughout the County. Greenways would be 50-foot wide corridors.

# Greenbelt System Components

	<b>Total Acreage</b>	<b>% of 2006 Target</b>
<b>Total Protected Since 2006</b>		
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# Draft Criteria – Greenbelt System Components

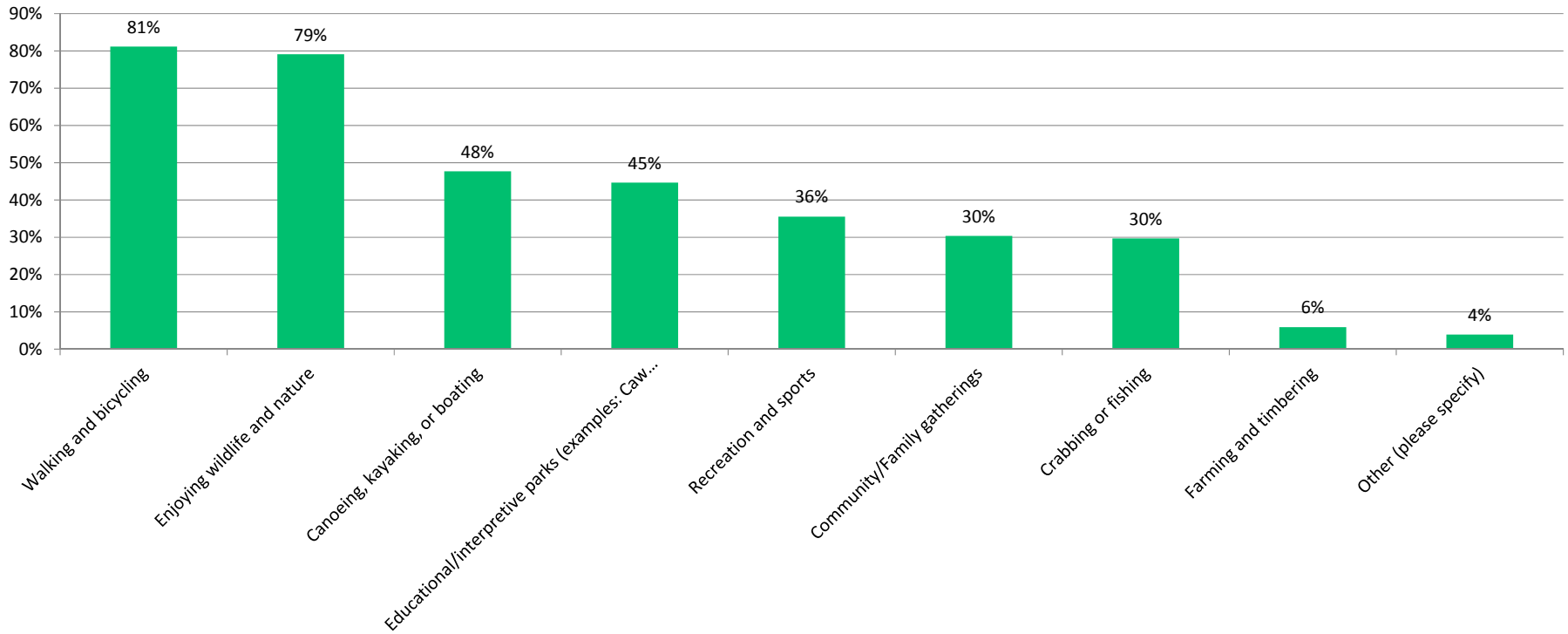
## **Meets Greenbelt System Components:**

- Greenway Corridors
- Urban Greenbelt Lands
- Rural Greenbelt Lands
- Francis Marion National Forest
- CCPRC Regional Parks
- Lowcountry Wetlands

*(Ranked based on updated inventory)*

# Public Access and Use

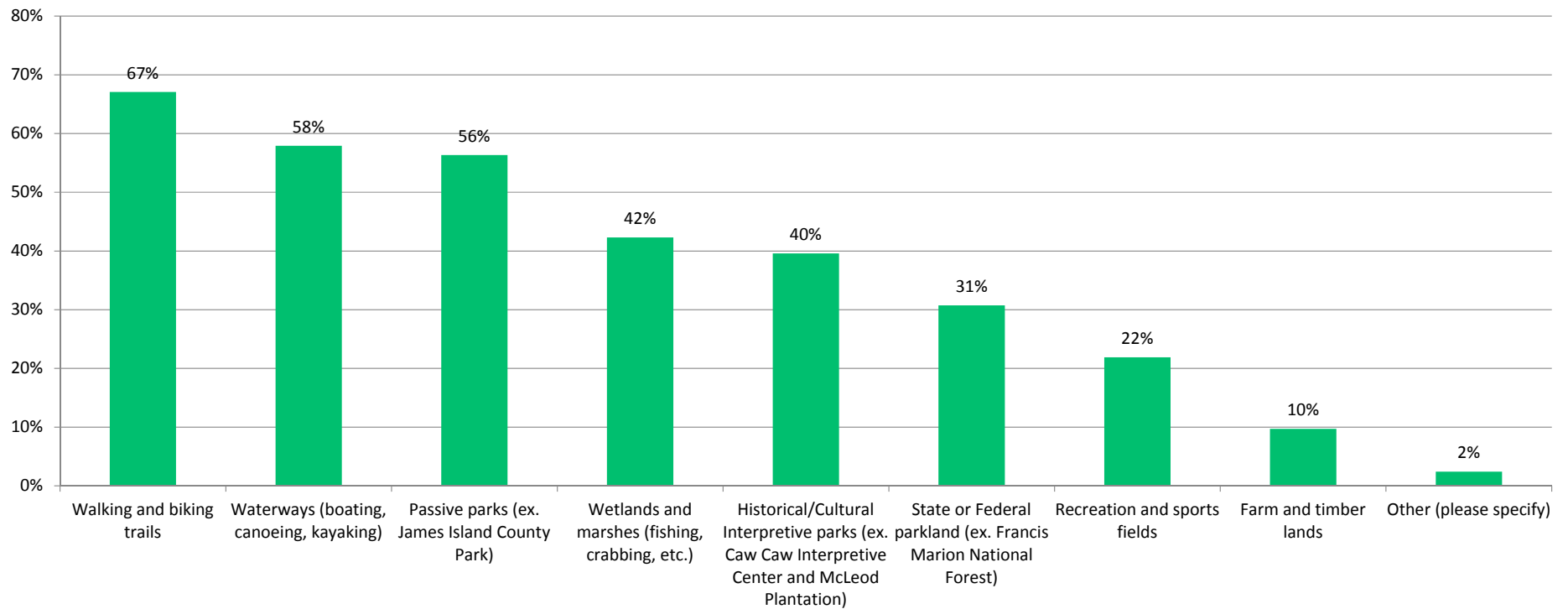
How do you currently use greenspace? (Select all that apply)





# Public Access and Use

What types of greenspace do you, your friends, and your family use most frequently? (Select all that apply)



# Draft Criteria – Public Access and Use

## **Addresses public access and use?**

- Passive park, greenspace or trail with full public access
- Passive greenspace with limited public access
- Provides access to waterway for kayaking and/or canoeing
- Provides access to waterway via a boat ramp
- Provides access to waterway for fishing, shrimping, crabbing
- Active park with full public access
- Active park with limited public access
- Private Property with Limited public access
- No public access

***(Ranked based on public's response to Questions 5 and 7)***

# Draft Criteria – Size and Location

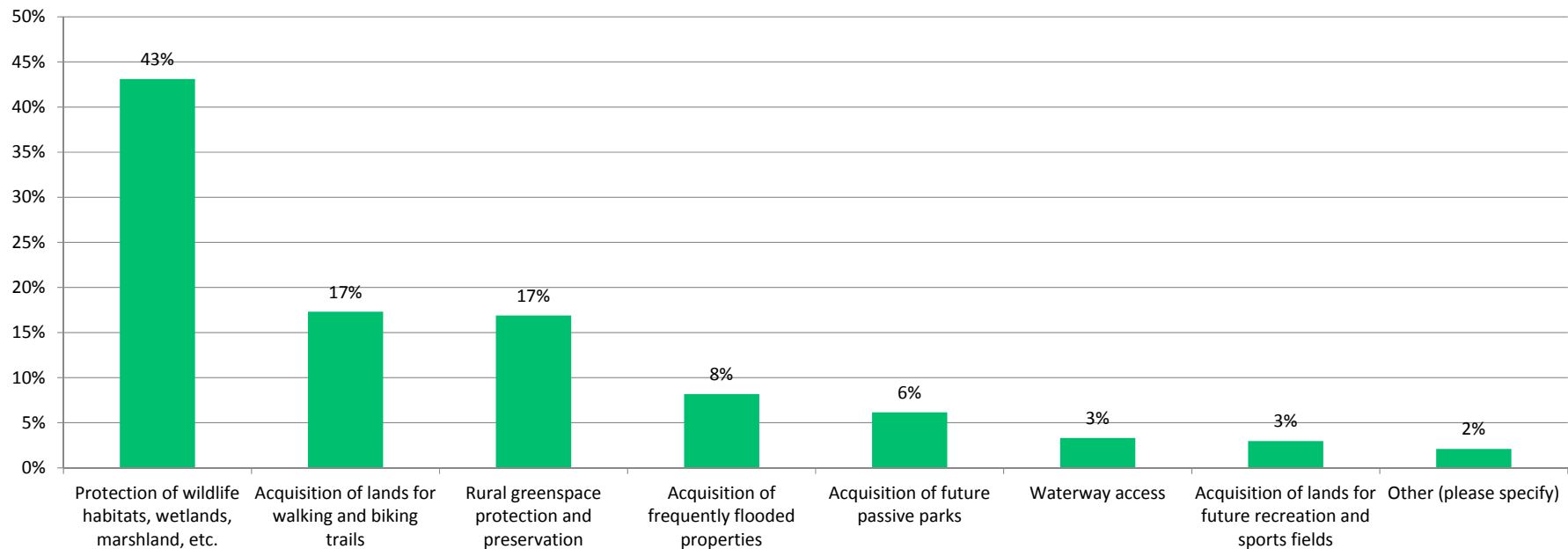
## Location and size of the project?

- 100+ acres in rural area
- 11 – 100 acres in rural area
- 1 – 10 acres in rural area
- <1 acre in rural area
- 100+ acres in urban area
- 11 – 100 acres in urban area
- 1 – 10 acres in urban area
- <1 acre in urban area
- 100+ acres in urban unincorporated area
- 11 – 100 acres in urban unincorporated area
- 1 – 10 acres urban unincorporated area
- <1 acre in urban unincorporated area

***(GAB needs to decide on priorities for size and location.)***

# Public Survey Results – Wildlife Habitat Protection, Natural Resources, Infrastructure

Where should Charleston County direct most of the funding for the Greenbelt Program? (Select one)



# Draft Criteria – Protection of Wildlife Habitat

## **Protection of wildlife habitat?**

- Protects wildlife habitat of endangered or threatened species
- Protects wildlife habitat of any species
- No wildlife habitat protection

*(Ranked based on public's response to Question 8 of the survey)*

# Draft Criteria – Protection of Natural Resources and Infrastructure

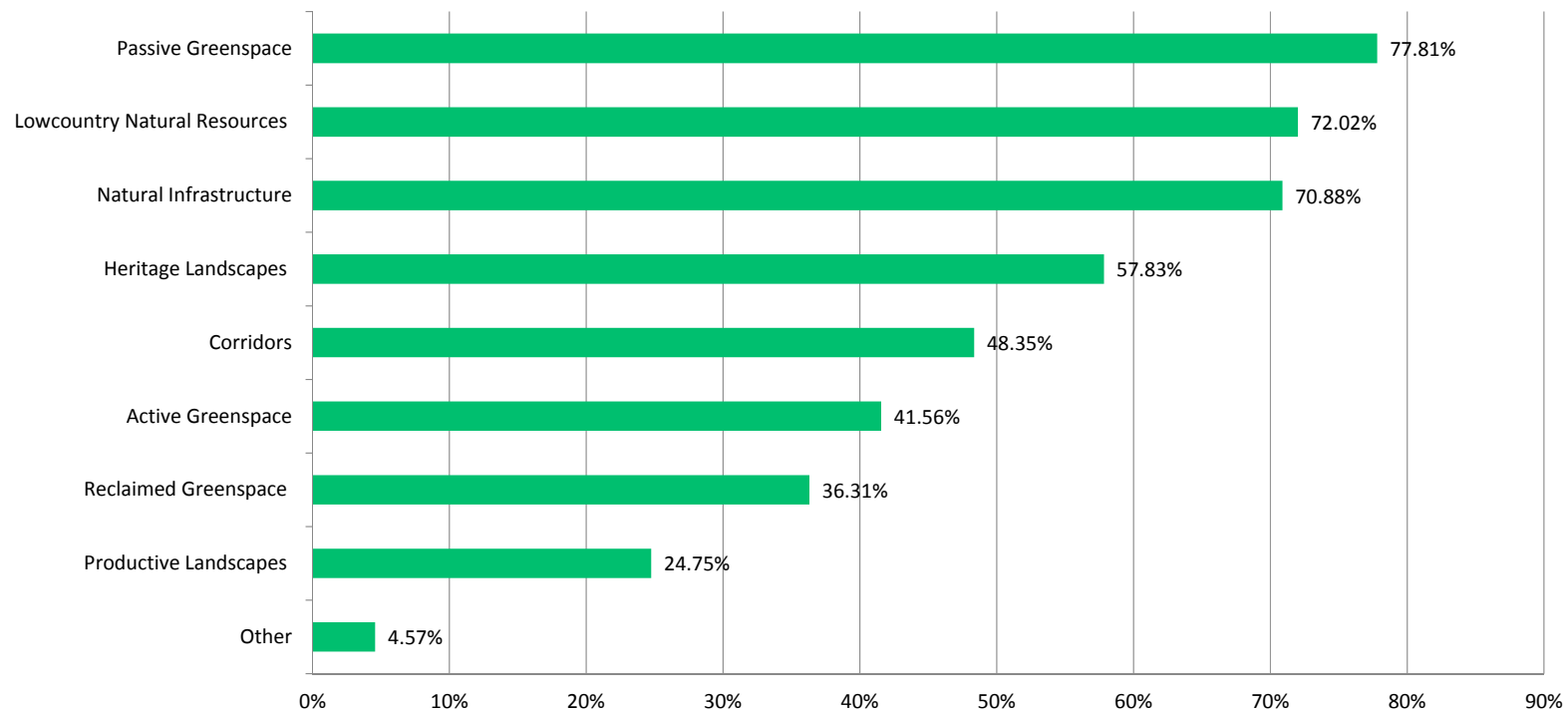
## **Protection of Lowcountry Natural Resources and Natural Infrastructure:**

- Upland forests
- Fresh water wetlands or forested wetlands
- Saltwater marsh, marsh and/or marsh islands
- Riparian zones
- Floodplains
- Land critical to clean water
- Long Leaf Pine forest

*(Ranked based on public's response to Question 8 of the survey)*

# Heritage Landscapes – Ranked #4

Which of the following landscapes do you feel are most important for the Greenbelt Program? (Select all that apply)



# Draft Criteria – Historical and Cultural Features

## **Historical and cultural features:**

- Existing remains of buildings, earthworks or historical significance
- Documented historical event occurrence
- Culturally significant land
- Oral tradition of historical occurrence
- No historical or cultural significance

**(Heritage Landscapes ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in Q4 of Public Survey)**



# Draft Criteria – Threat of Loss

## **Threat of Loss:**

- Protects endangered/threatened wildlife habitat under immediate threat of loss
- Protects land under immediate threat of loss to development
- Protects wetlands/marsh under threat of loss to development or rising tides
- Protects culturally significant lands under threat of loss
- Protects productive lands under threat of loss
- Project poses unique opportunity not likely to present itself again
- No threat of loss

*(Ranked based on public's response to Question 8 of the survey, as well as survey comments regarding curbing development)*

# Draft Criteria – Consistent with Adopted Plans

## **Consistent with Adopted Plans:**

- Greenbelt Plan
- County's Comp Plan
- Regional Bike/Ped Plans
- Municipal Plan
- Other

**(Part of the Original Criteria)**

# Draft Criteria – Ready for Immediate Action

- **Project is ready for immediate action:**
  - Acquisition will take place within 6 months of approval
  - Acquisition will take place more than 6 months of approval
  - Property will be open to the public immediately
  - Property will be open to the public within 1 year
  - Property will be open to the public within 5 years
  - Property will be open to the public more than 5 years

**(Part of the Original Criteria)**

# Draft Criteria – Funding and Leveraging

## **Funding and leveraging:**

- 1% - 4% Match
- 5% – 10% Match
- 11% - 24% Match
- 25% - 49% Match
- 50% - 74% Match
- 75% - 100% Match
- No match

**(Part of Original Criteria)**

# Draft Criteria – Project Management

## **Project Management:**

- Staff dedicated to land management, maintenance and deed restriction enforcement
- Staff experienced in financial management of land
- Financial resources for land management

**(Part of original criteria)**

# Draft Criteria – Partnership and Coordination

## **Partnership and Coordination:**

- More than one financial partner
- More than one non-financial partner
- No partners

**(Part of original criteria)**

# Draft Criteria – Return on Investment

## **Return on Investment:**

- Provides jobs
- Provides recreation and/or tourism income
- Provides economic benefit (timbering, farmland)
- Other

**(Item requested to be included by GAB)**

# Draft Criteria – Level of Public Support

## **Level of Public Support:**

- Support Letters/Emails from public
- Results of Public Hearing
- Other

**(Part of original criteria)**



Questions?