

CHARLESTON COUNTY GREENBELT PLAN



**Presentation to Charleston County
Greenbelt Advisory Board
February 21, 2018**

CHARLESTON COUNTY • ALTA/GREENWAYS

Greenbelt Plan Review Tasks

1. Criteria Approved by the GAB at January 2018 meeting
2. Criteria to review and approve
3. Formulate Recommendations based on Public Input:
 - **Greenbelt Definition – completed**
 - **Greenbelt Vision – completed**
 - Greenbelt Priorities & Criteria – currently under review/need vote
 - Bonding of Greenbelt Funds – need vote
 - Rural/Urban Allocation – need vote
 - Greenbelt Board structure – need vote

Draft Greenbelt Criteria
Approved by the GAB
at January 2018 meeting

Greenbelt Definition – approved by GAB

- ***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

Draft Criteria – Greenbelt Definition

(GAB motion to accept the ranking of criteria for the Greenbelt Definition was approved)

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)

January Draft Criteria – Issue of Connectivity

Meets the Greenbelt vision for connectivity:

- 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.)

Revised Draft Criteria – Issue of Connectivity

(GAB motion to include connectivity as part of Criteria was approved)
(Per request of GAB, staff has consolidated as follows)

Meets the Greenbelt vision for connectivity:

- Trail/corridor connected to either a greenspace; trail/corridor; neighborhood; or retail/jobs center.
- Provides linkage to a blue trail.
- Greenspace connected to a trail/corridor; another greenspace; neighborhood; school; retail or jobs center.

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

January 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)

Revised Draft Criteria – Public Access and Use

(GAB motion to include public access and use as part of Criteria was approved) (Per request of GAB, staff has consolidated as follows)

Addresses public access and use?

- Greenspace with full public access
- Public waterway access and use (fishing, crabbing, canoeing and/or kayaking) – **Needs GAB approval**
- Greenspace with partial public access (partial = land manager restricts days/hours of week)
- Greenspace with limited public access (limited = access by landowner invitation at least once annually)
- No public access

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

Clarification – Access and Improvements

- What the Greenbelt Plan says regarding “improvements:”
 - ***Minor improvements will be limited to: boardwalks, foot bridges, unpaved trails, unpaved roadways, and unpaved small parking areas. The cost of these improvements should be included in any proposal submitted for the acquisition of sites. Other improvements may be included in a particular project but can not be funded with Greenbelt proceeds.” (Pages 5-6 and 5-8)***
- Not saying that another funding source or project partner can’t make improvements on the land.
- Another partner can make improvements, just can’t use Greenbelt funds to accomplish those improvements if they go beyond what is allowed under “minor improvements.”

Draft Greenbelt Criteria
To be reviewed and approved
by the GAB

Draft Criteria – Size and Location

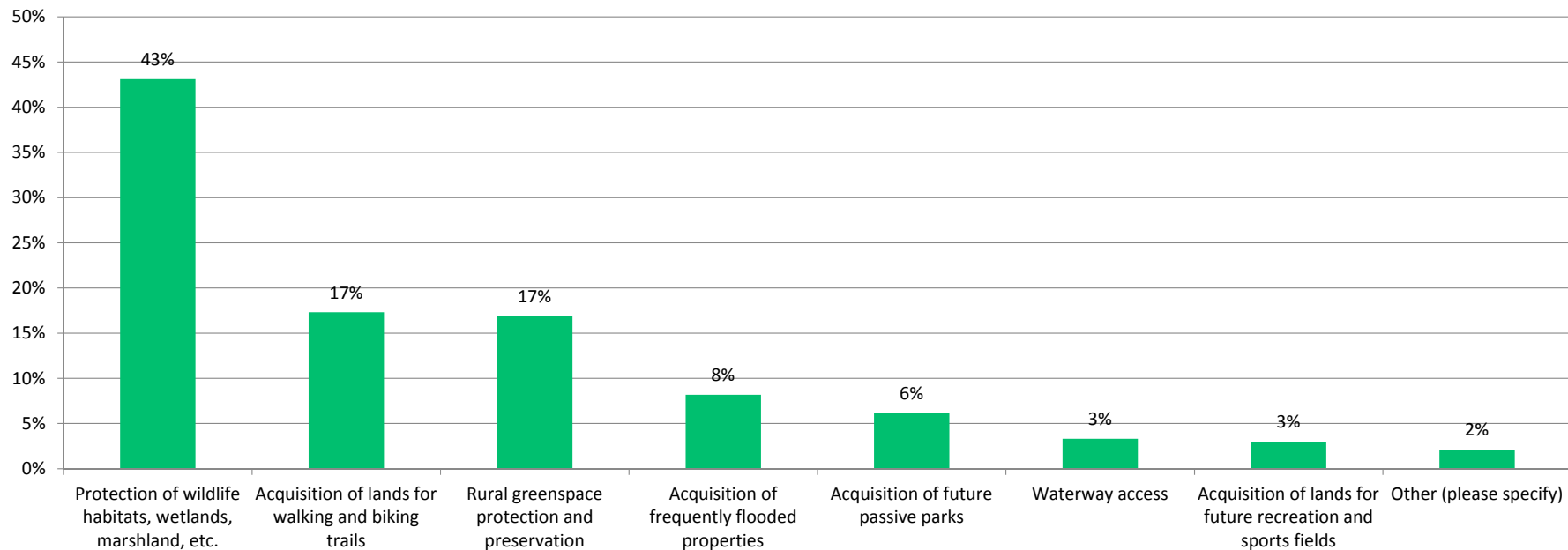
Location and size of the project?

- 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)

Clarification: Wildlife habitat

- Biggest concern of public is loss of land and habitat for wildlife
- Public concerned about “road kill” – evidence of problem
- Difference between “Edge” species and “Interior” species
 - Francis Marion Forest most likely the only landscape that could support Interior species
 - Edge species wildlife are the animals most people are familiar with
- Wildlife habitat currently exists in urban landscapes
 - Can and should be protected as part of Greenbelt Program
 - Can be a buffer of trees, wetlands, marshland
 - Can be a restored abandoned property – industrial, commercial, residential

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

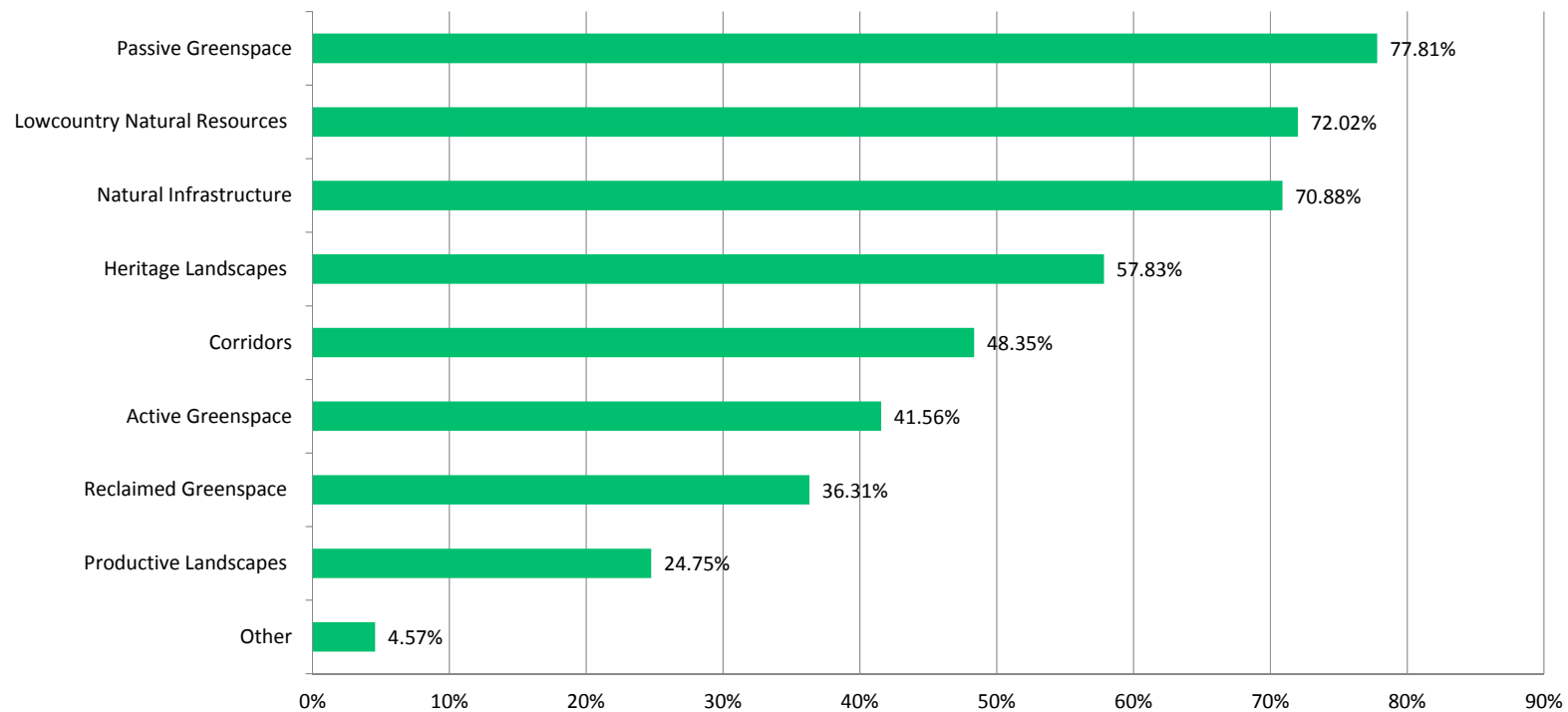
(Ranked based on public's response to Question 8 of the survey)

Clarification – Impacts from Flooding

- Charleston County vulnerable to increased flooding resulting from rising sea levels, increased intense rainfall events, and more frequent large storm events (i.e. hurricanes, noreasters).
- Greenbelt funds can be used to **purchase land** that mitigates impact from flooding
 - Examples from other communities
- Greenbelt funds can not be used for following:
 - Purchasing homes or businesses or buildings that have been flooded
 - Building drainage ditches (facility)
 - Building drainage pipes or improving existing drainage infrastructure (facility)
 - Improvements to roadways that are habitually flooded (facility)
 - Use of fill dirt to raise property above changing floodplain
 - Beach renourishment program

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 4th 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)