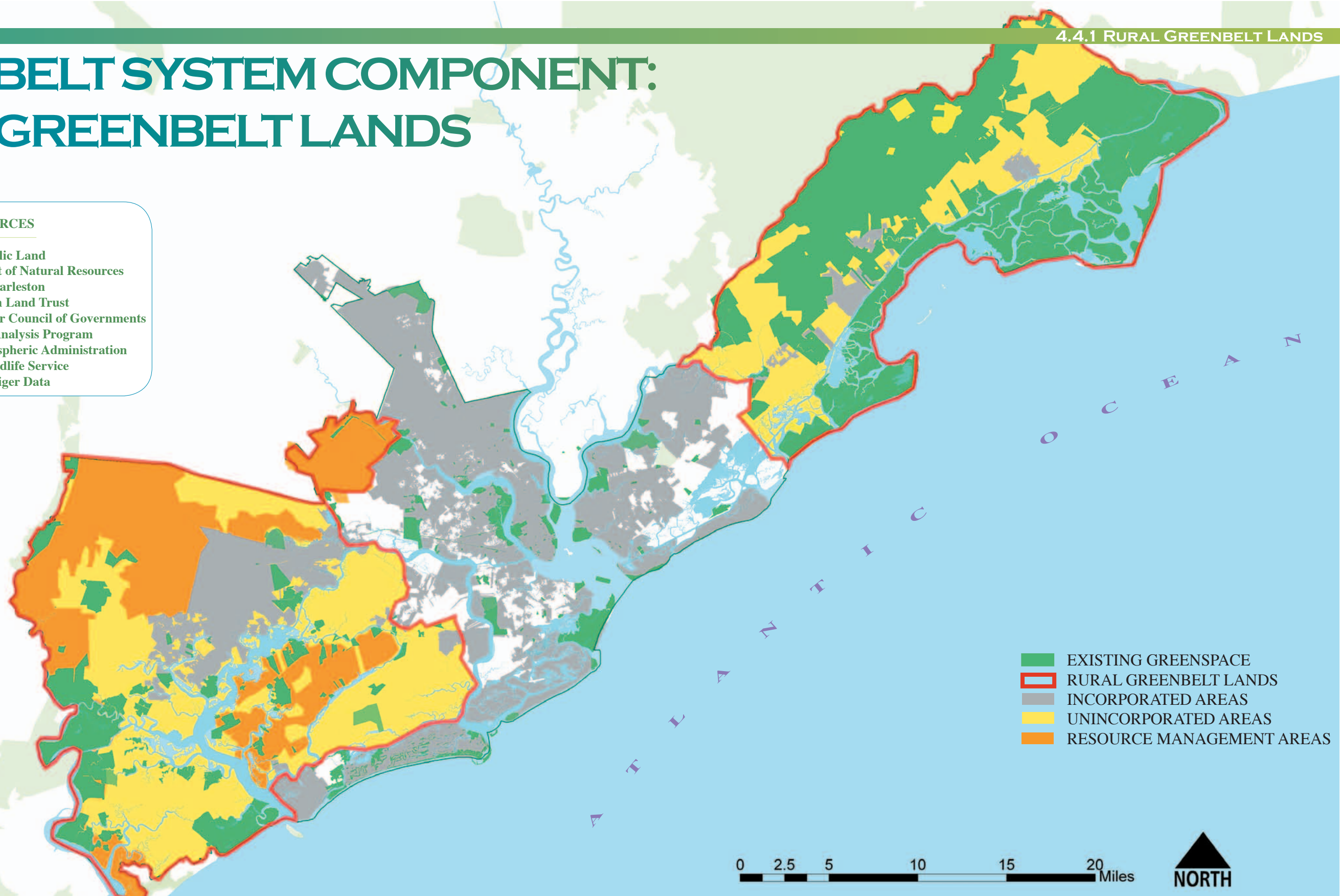


4.4.1 RURAL GREENBELT LANDS

# GREENBELT SYSTEM COMPONENT: RURAL GREENBELT LANDS

DATA SOURCES

- Trust for Public Land
- South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
- County of Charleston
- Lowcountry Open Land Trust
- Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments
- South Carolina Gap Analysis Program
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Census Tiger Data





4.4.2 FRANCIS MARION NATIONAL FOREST

DESCRIPTION:

This component of the greenbelt system is located in the East County planning area and is one of the region’s largest natural areas with more than 250,000 acres in both Berkeley and Charleston Counties. The Francis Marion National Forest has been managed by the Forest Service since 1936, and is also identified as a “Resource Management” area in the Charleston County Comprehensive Plan (p.3-2-10 and Figure 3.2.7).

PUBLIC ACCESS AND USE:

Currently, the public benefit provided by the Forest includes a multitude of educational opportunities and recreational opportunities, including hunting, camping, biking, and hiking. There are approximately 120 miles of recreational trails available to the public, plus seven recreational areas that provide the community with opportunities for camping, picnicking, and boating, and viewing the natural environment.

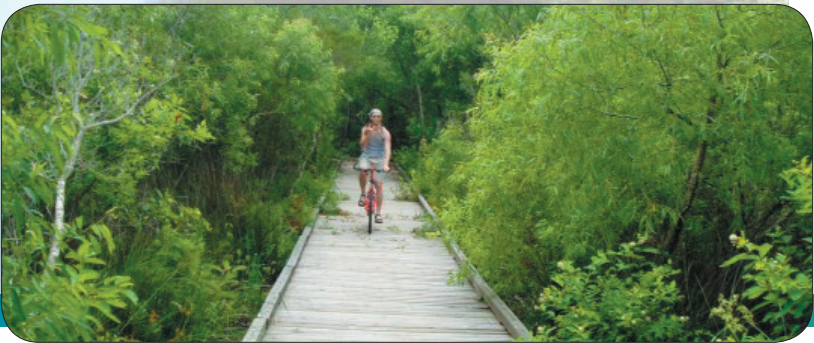


DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

As a pristine habitat for many species of plants and animals, the Francis Marion National Forest is one of the most diverse ecosystems in the United States. The Forest is habitat to several endangered and threatened animal and plant species, including the red-cockaded woodpecker, bald eagle, American alligator, American chaff seed, and pond berry.

AREA OF LAND TARGETED FOR CONSERVATION:

10,275 acres (25% of total greenbelt goal)  
In November of 2005, a multi-agency memorandum of agreement was set forth to protect all unincorporated areas adjacent to the Francis Marion National Forest . The agreement identified approximately 10,275 acres of unprotected land within Charleston County’s portion of the Francis Marion National Forest. The Charleston County Greenbelt Plan supports this multi-agency effort by encouraging further conservation and protection of wildlife habitat within the unprotected areas of the Forest.



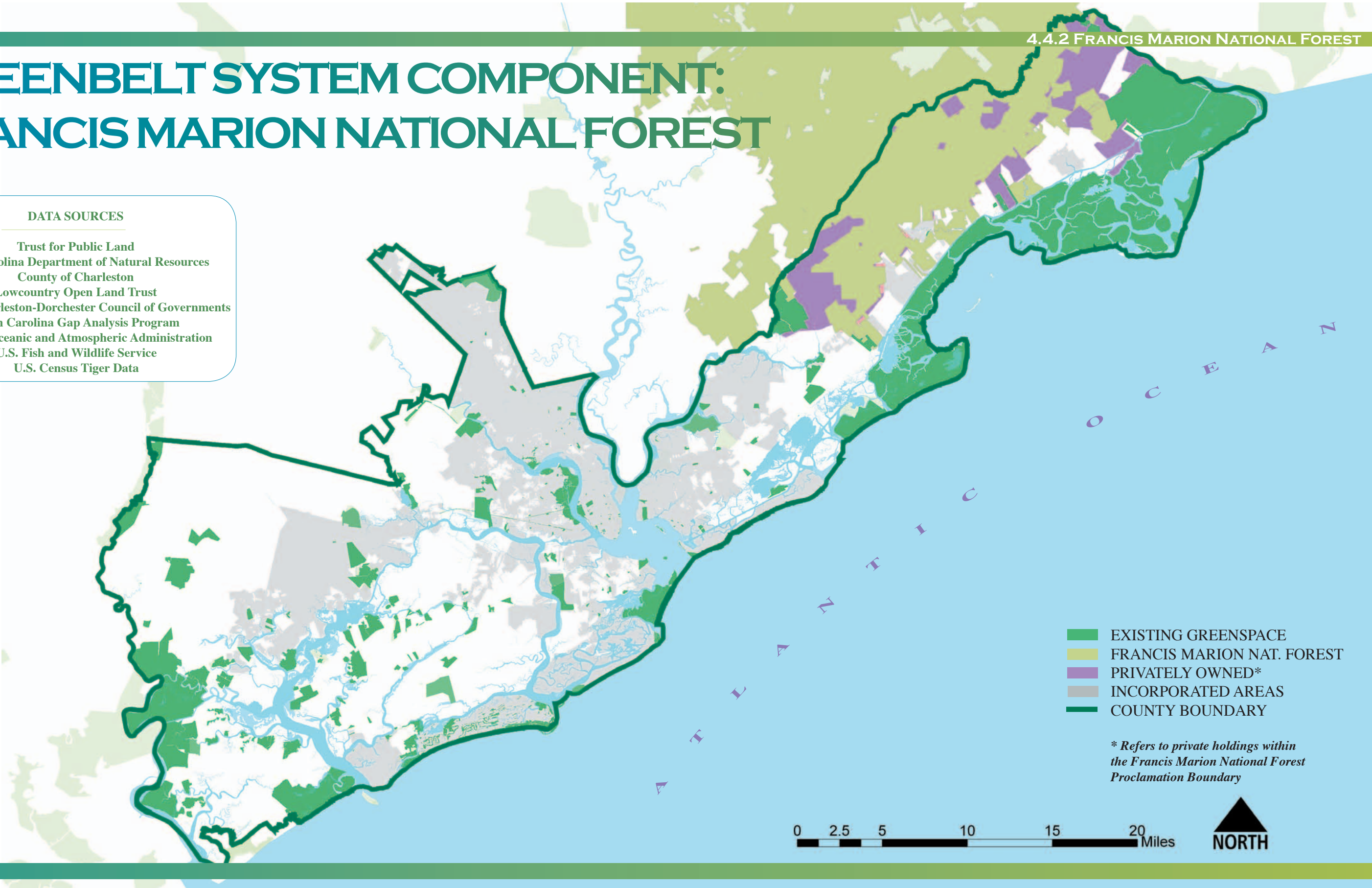


4.4.2 FRANCIS MARION NATIONAL FOREST

# GREENBELT SYSTEM COMPONENT: FRANCIS MARION NATIONAL FOREST

DATA SOURCES

- Trust for Public Land
- South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
- County of Charleston
- Lowcountry Open Land Trust
- Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments
- South Carolina Gap Analysis Program
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Census Tiger Data



- EXISTING GREENSPACE
- FRANCIS MARION NAT. FOREST
- PRIVATELY OWNED\*
- INCORPORATED AREAS
- COUNTY BOUNDARY

*\* Refers to private holdings within the Francis Marion National Forest Proclamation Boundary*

0 2.5 5 10 15 20 Miles





4.4.3 LOWCOUNTRY WETLANDS

DESCRIPTION:

Charleston County has approximately 240,000 acres of wetland (exclusive of marine wetlands), accounting for about forty percent of the total land area.



PUBLIC ACCESS AND USE:

Some wetland areas can be accessible for water-based activities, such as canoeing, kayaking, fishing, or crabbing. However, the main benefits of wetlands are enhanced water quality for Charleston County and fish and wildlife productivity. Additionally, wetland protection can prevent disturbances to areas that provide critical floodwater storage and filtration.



DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

Charleston County includes habitat for five species designated as endangered at the federal level, three species threatened at the federal level, eight species endangered or threatened at the state level, fifty-four species of state concern, and three species of regional concern. More than half of these designated species are found in Charleston County’s wetlands.

AREA OF LAND TARGETED FOR CONSERVATION:

5,610 acres (14% of total greenbelt goal)

The project consultant recommends a target of 5,610 acres of additional wetland protection for critical areas throughout Charleston County. This goal represents a supplement to currently protected wetlands for both the Rural and Urban landscapes.

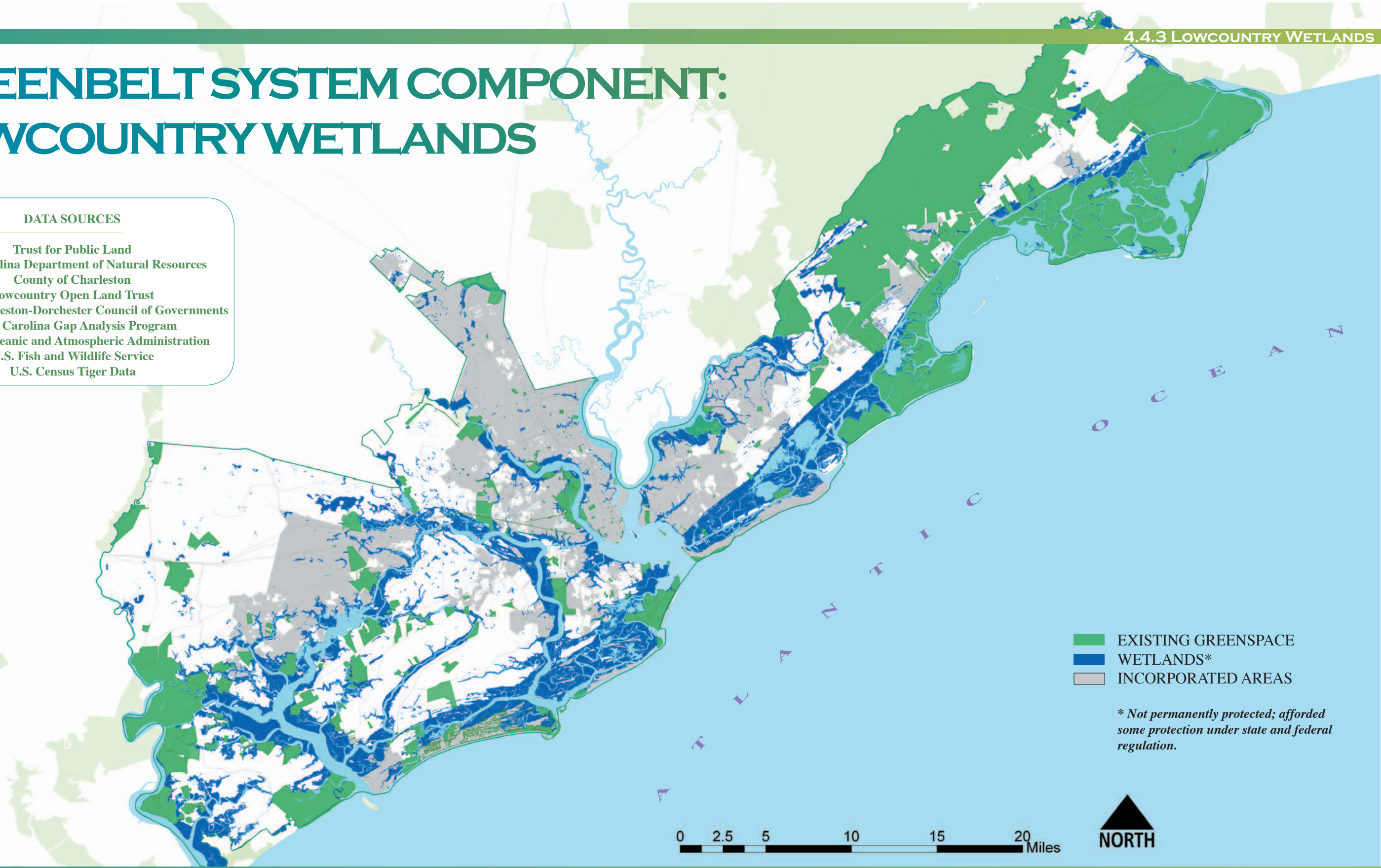




# GREENBELT SYSTEM COMPONENT: LOWCOUNTRY WETLANDS

DATA SOURCES

- Trust for Public Land
- South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
- County of Charleston
- Lowcountry Open Land Trust
- Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments
- South Carolina Gap Analysis Program
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Census Tiger Data



EXISTING GREENSPACE  
WETLANDS\*  
INCORPORATED AREAS

*\* Not permanently protected; afforded some protection under state and federal regulation.*





4.4.4A PRC REGIONAL PARKS

DESCRIPTION:

The existing park facilities provided by the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission (PRC) offer a diverse range of recreation opportunities for the citizens of Charleston County. The total acreage of existing park facilities, including undeveloped future park sites, is 5,192 acres.

PUBLIC ACCESS AND USE:

Currently, recreational opportunities provided by PRC range from special use facilities, such as water access facilities and historical/cultural parks, to regional parks, such as James Island Park and Wannamaker County Park.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

As a greenbelt component, PRC parks will address needs for both passive and active greenspace. In a 1999 user survey conducted by PRC staff, 1,797 respondents prioritized future developments with the following outcome for the top three types: beach access, educational/interpretive shelters, and open space.

**AREA OF LAND TARGETED FOR CONSERVATION:** 4,675 acres (12% of total greenbelt goal)  
The PRC Open Space Analysis indicates that an additional 4,675 regional parkland acres are needed to meet the recreation needs of the projected population for 2015. While potential future parks are not depicted due to the sensitive nature of land values, the PRC does identify the Urban landscapes (East Cooper, West Ashley, North Charleston, and the Charleston Peninsula, respectively) as having the greatest need for additional County Parks.



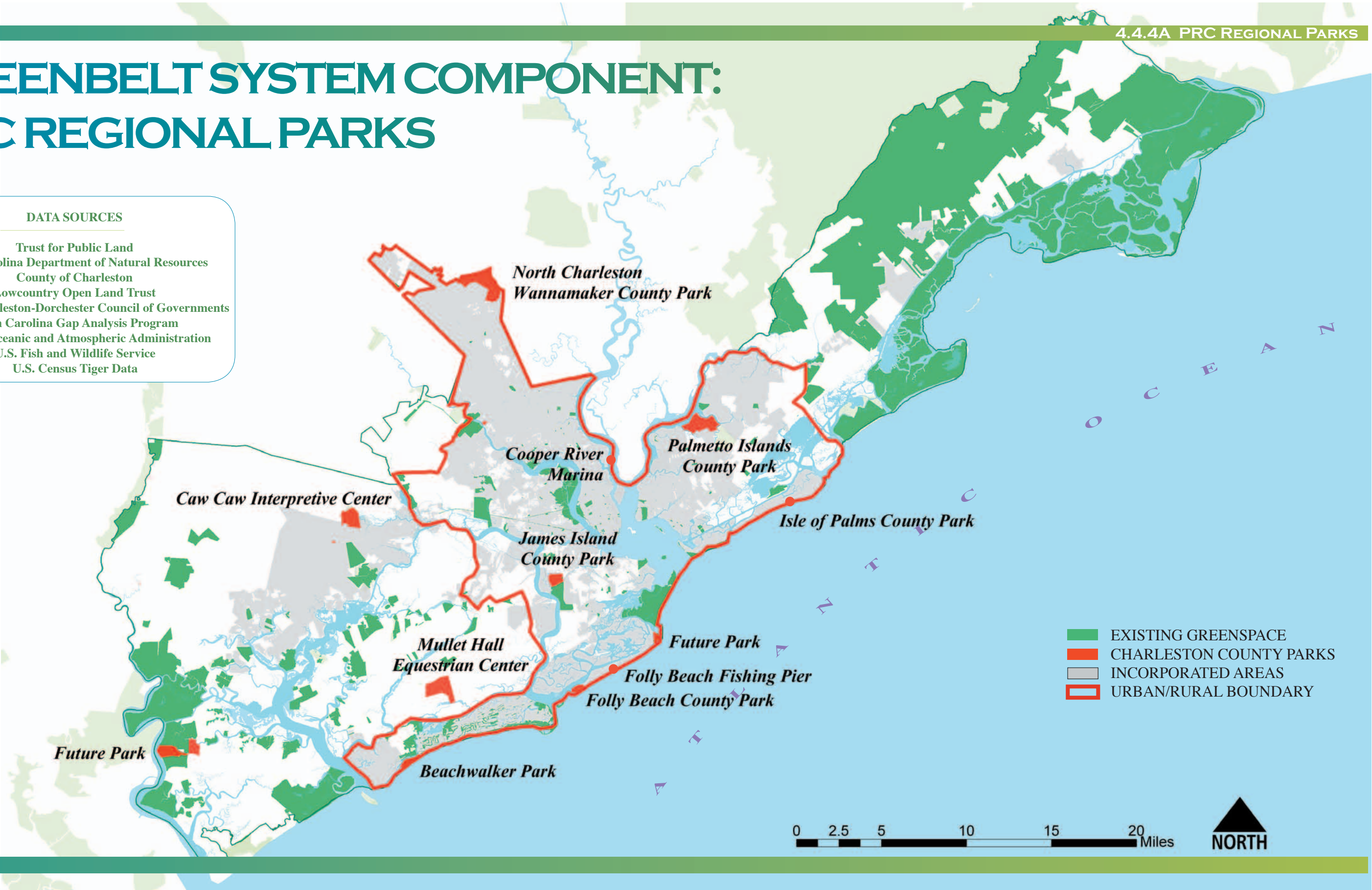


4.4.4A PRC REGIONAL PARKS

# GREENBELT SYSTEM COMPONENT: PRC REGIONAL PARKS

DATA SOURCES

- Trust for Public Land
- South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
- County of Charleston
- Lowcountry Open Land Trust
- Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments
- South Carolina Gap Analysis Program
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Census Tiger Data







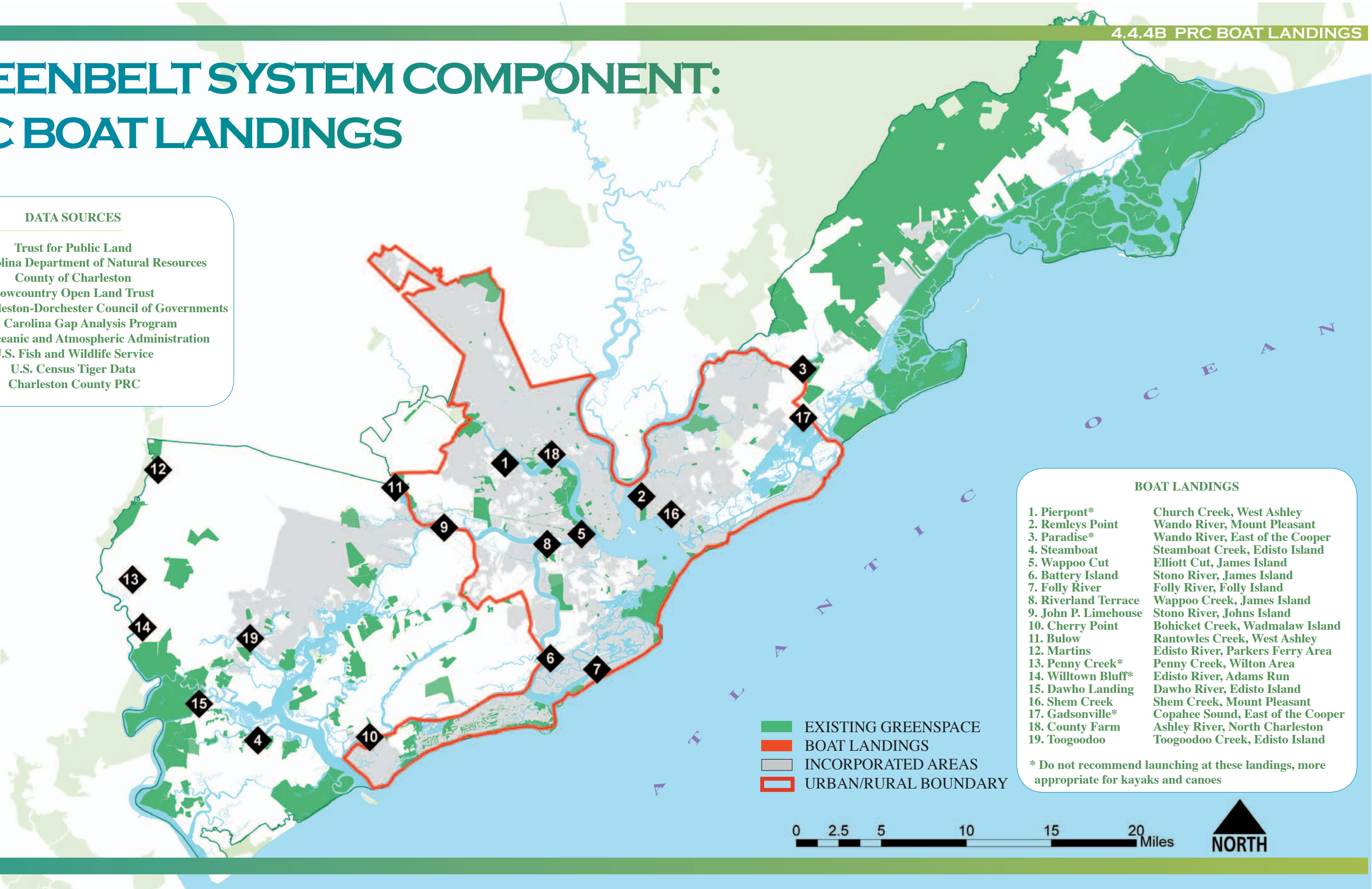


4.4.4B PRC BOAT LANDINGS

# GREENBELT SYSTEM COMPONENT: PRC BOAT LANDINGS

DATA SOURCES

- Trust for Public Land
- South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
- County of Charleston
- Lowcountry Open Land Trust
- Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments
- South Carolina Gap Analysis Program
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Census Tiger Data
- Charleston County PRC





4.4.5 URBAN GREENBELT LANDS

DESCRIPTION:

The delineation of Urban and Suburban Areas in the Future Land Use section of the Charleston County Comprehensive Plan was used to determine Urban Greenbelt Lands. (Charleston County Comprehensive Plan, Figure 3.2.1).

PUBLIC ACCESS AND USE:

Typical uses for Urban Greenbelt Lands include urban parks, cultural/historic sites, reclaimed greenspace, and water access.



DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

Urban Greenbelt Lands contain the greatest population density and intensity of development, as well as the greatest concentration of jobs and economic activity. Conservation of greenspace for various uses will be crucial in offsetting the negative impacts of increased density.

AREA OF LAND TARGETED FOR CONSERVATION:

2,000 acres (5% of total greenbelt goal)  
The project consultant recommends a target of 2,000 acres of Urban Greenbelt Lands to be conserved in order to meet the needs of future urban area residents. Specifically targeted lands include priority areas identified by North Charleston, Mount Pleasant, Charleston, and other communities within the Urban Area.

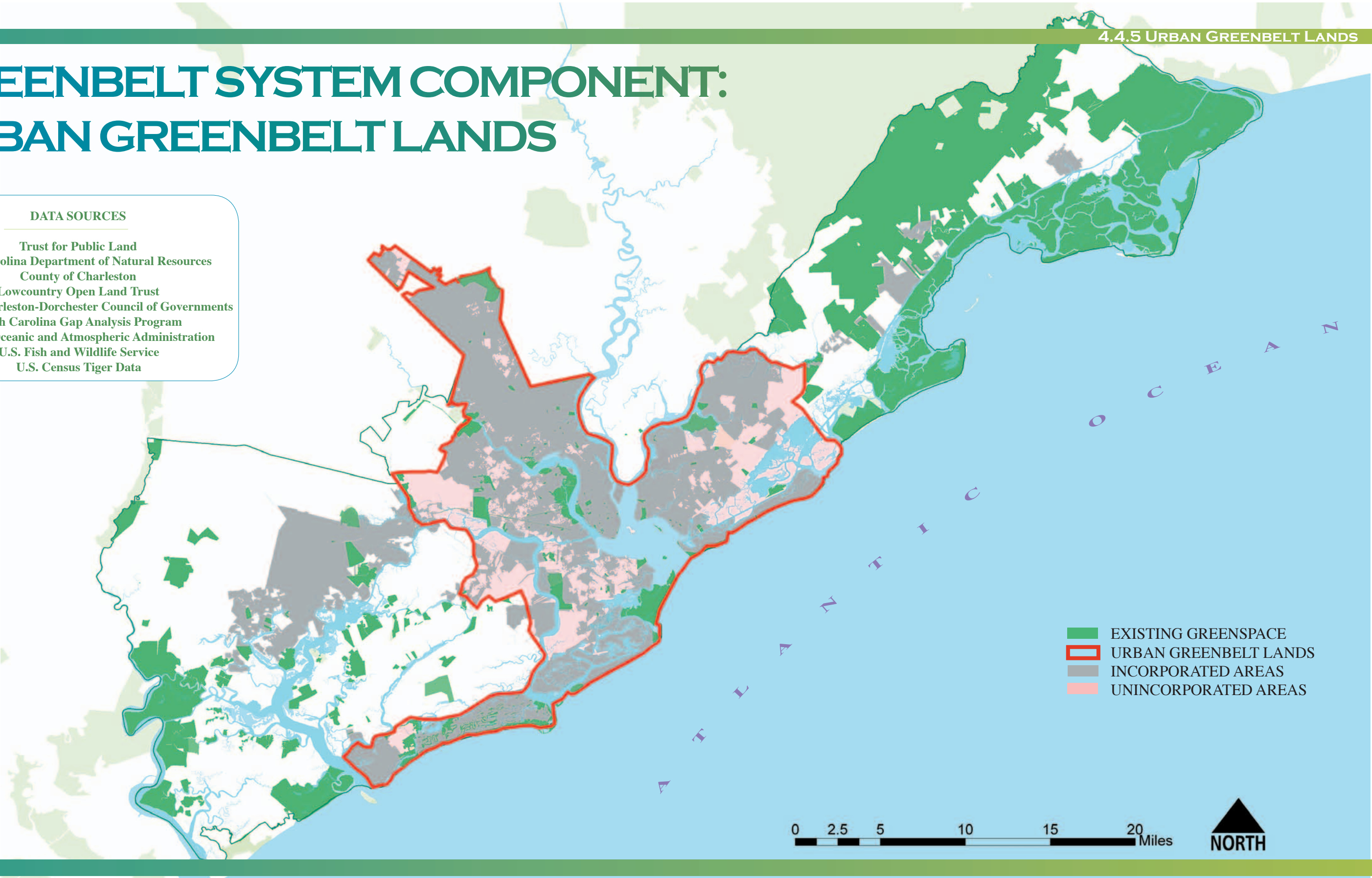




# GREENBELT SYSTEM COMPONENT: URBAN GREENBELT LANDS

DATA SOURCES

- Trust for Public Land
- South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
- County of Charleston
- Lowcountry Open Land Trust
- Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments
- South Carolina Gap Analysis Program
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Census Tiger Data





4.4.6 GREENWAYS

DESCRIPTION:

Greenway Corridors were determined by combining future bikeway and trail routes identified in the Charleston County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, the Palmetto Conservation Foundation’s Regional Trails Plan, the Charleston Area Transportation Study Long Range Transportation Plan, the East Coast Greenway, and from public input gathered at the Greenbelt Planning Workshops.



DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

Greenway Corridors are an essential component of the Greenbelt System as a whole. They will create regional connections for rural and urban residents, using a sustainable form of transportation: walking and biking. Additionally, greenways will connect existing and future greenspaces, yielding tremendous benefits to Charleston County’s natural environment.

AREA OF LAND TARGETED FOR CONSERVATION:

1,200 acres (3% of total greenbelt goal)  
The 1,200-acre goal for Greenway Corridors is based on a 200-mile system of greenways with 50-foot wide corridors. Both the South Carolina State Outdoor Recreation Plan and the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission recommend approximately 200 miles of trail to accommodate the needs of Charleston County’s growing population.



PUBLIC ACCESS AND USE:

User benefits of walking and biking include increased health and fitness, economic benefits, transportation alternatives, increased social interaction, and the preservation of sense of place. Greenways also provide users solace and links to nature, while providing regional wildlife with essential corridors of continuous open space.





# GREENBELT SYSTEM COMPONENT: GREENWAYS

DATA SOURCES

- Trust for Public Land
- South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
- County of Charleston
- Lowcountry Open Land Trust
- Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments
- South Carolina Gap Analysis Program
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Census Tiger Data

EAST COAST  
GREENWAY,  
SOUTH

TO EDISTO BEACH

TO WANNAMAKER PARK

TO PALMETTO  
TRAIL

TO WAMBAW TRAIL

EAST COAST GREENWAY,  
NORTH

4.4.6 GREENWAYS

- EXISTING GREENSPACE
- EXISTING BIKE PATHS
- PROPOSED GREENWAYS
- URBAN/RURAL BOUNDARY
- INCORPORATED AREAS

0 2.5 5 10 15 20 Miles





4.5 GREENBELT SYSTEM

All of the individual Greenbelt Components are combined and illustrated within the following map. This map constitutes the recommended Greenbelt System for Charleston County. This is a projection of priority landscapes and corridors that comprise the Greenbelt System.

RURAL GREENBELT LANDS



PRC PARKS



FRANCIS MARION NATIONAL FOREST



URBAN GREENBELT LANDS



LOWCOUNTRY WETLANDS



GREENWAYS

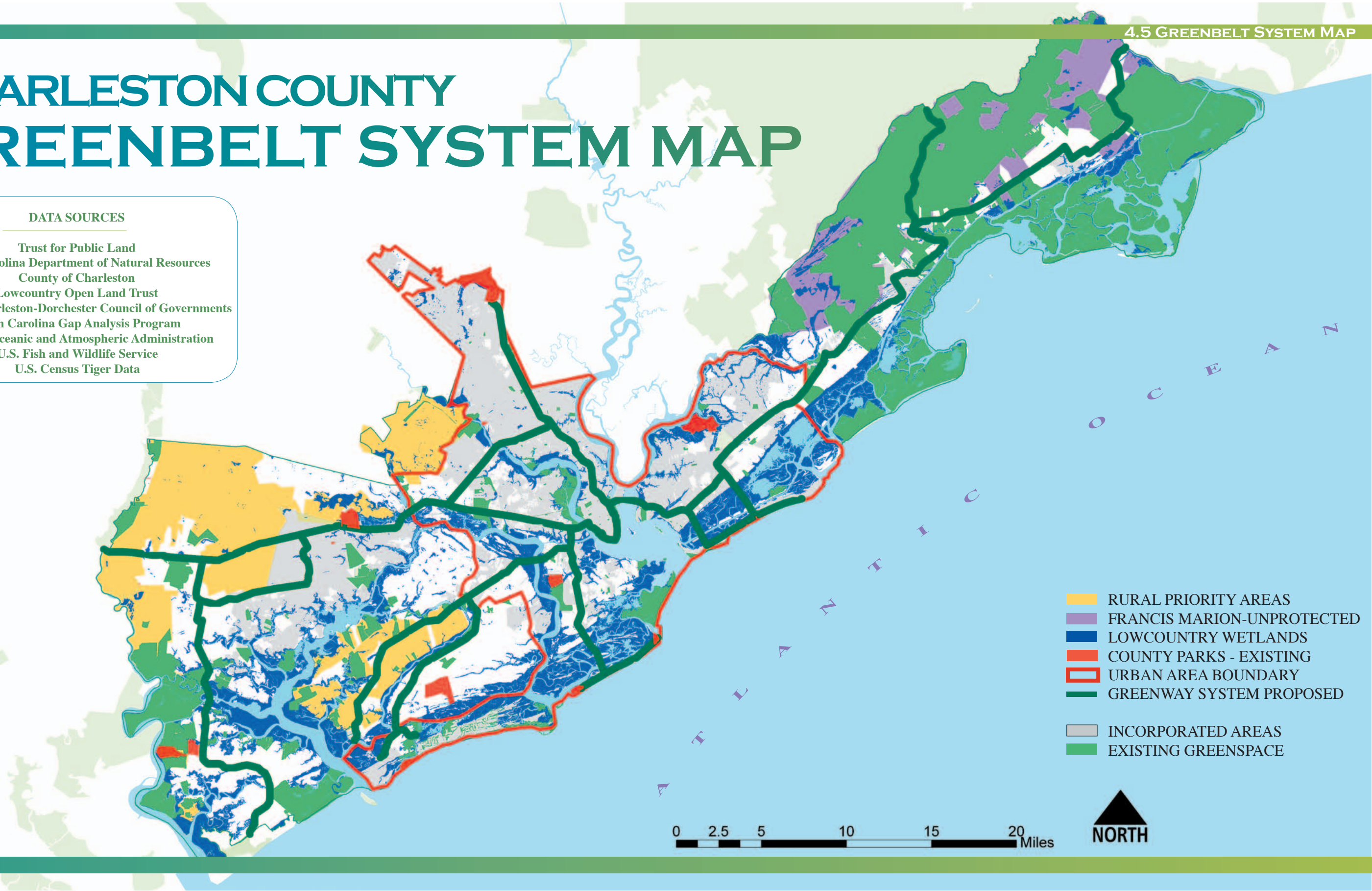




# CHARLESTON COUNTY GREENBELT SYSTEM MAP

DATA SOURCES

- Trust for Public Land
- South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
- County of Charleston
- Lowcountry Open Land Trust
- Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments
- South Carolina Gap Analysis Program
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Census Tiger Data



- RURAL PRIORITY AREAS
- FRANCIS MARION-UNPROTECTED
- LOWCOUNTRY WETLANDS
- COUNTY PARKS - EXISTING
- URBAN AREA BOUNDARY
- GREENWAY SYSTEM PROPOSED
- INCORPORATED AREAS
- EXISTING GREENSPACE





