
**The City of Beaufort Open Space Master Plan
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The City of Beaufort Open Space Master Plan

“Open Space Preserves and Enhances Quality of Life and Encourages Economic Growth”

I. Purpose Statement

The purpose of this plan is to develop an open space master plan which will guide the land acquisition and preservation efforts of the City of Beaufort.

II. Definition of Terms

Open Space

For the purposes of this plan, Open Space is defined as: developed or undeveloped land areas that have important ecological functions, natural and/or cultural resources that are worthy of conservation, restoration and protection. Land acquisition will have an emphasis on water quality protection, creation and enhancement of view corridors, recreation, historic preservation, mobility, and ecological significance.

Greenways

Greenways are corridors of open space which connect people and places, protect valuable natural habitat, provide passages for wildlife through urban areas, buffer and protect riparian areas, aid with flood control and drainage, protect and improve water quality and provide recreational opportunities.

III. Introduction

Open Space provides numerous benefits and is a vital component of any healthy community. By permanently protecting open space areas, the City of Beaufort will help safeguard the quality of life and beauty of the City. Open Space serves many important functions in a community by providing recreational and educational opportunities, public access to the water, increased mobility, and natural resource protection and pollution mitigation. Preservation of open space also aids in economic development, fosters civic pride and contributes to a high quality of life.

Mobility

A well planned and connected route of trails and open space can provide important areas for alternative modes of transportation such as walking and bicycling to workplaces, parks, schools, commercial centers and other areas of interest. Trails and open space can help decrease traffic congestion. Trails are accessible to children, the elderly and the disabled, and provide easily accessible, low-cost recreational opportunities for all members of the community.

Numerous studies and charrettes regarding Beaufort County traffic issues have shown that alternative modes of transportation are desirable, but the City of Beaufort lacks the population density to support mass-transit. However, due to the facts that Beaufort is located on an island and possesses a year-round temperate climate, it is ideally situated for modes of transportation such as walking and bicycling. With an increasing population of retirees in the area who either choose not to, or are unable to drive, providing access to safe

alternatives to driving can play an important role in community-wide mobility. A well connected network of trails and open space could play an important role in mitigating the City's traffic problems.

Education

Trails and open space also provide important educational opportunities for area schools and universities. Students can learn about ecology, geology and biology in a safe, "living laboratory." One of the key features of Beaufort is its rich natural environment and access to saltwater wetlands and interconnected waterways. Greater access provided to these amenities through trails and open space will provide significant opportunities to educate the next generation in responsible environmental stewardship and the natural sciences. Trails connecting neighborhoods to schools can also provide safe routes for children to walk or bike to school while avoiding busy streets and traffic, thereby affording them greater autonomy and reducing peak travel time traffic flows.

Environmental Protection

Open space also provides invaluable protection to delicate environments and ecosystems. The Lowcountry is a major producer of shrimp, shellfish and finfish, which is a vital part of the local economy. Beaufort County provides a third of South Carolina's fisheries harvest, almost half of the state's Blue Crab harvest, more than a third of the state's shrimp harvest and a quarter of the states oyster and shellfish harvest. Studies have shown a strong correlation between the quality of

inter-tidal wetland areas and shrimp yields.¹ Additionally, The Lowcountry is home to some of South Carolinas only saltwater wetlands, more than 90 percent of wetlands statewide are freshwater. As a relatively rare phenomenon, saltwater wetlands provide unique habitat for estuarine life forms. These wetlands are an important link in the natural ecosystem providing nurseries for small organisms and shellfish, as well as habitat for larger coastal animals. The freshwater marshes found in the City provide natural reservoirs for stormwater drainage and habitats for birds and other wildlife.

Protecting open space, both private and public, is also a critical component to preserving biodiversity. Much of the habitat needed to conserve biodiversity is on found on private land. According to data collected in various parts of the United States, as much as 15 to 30 percent of the land in any state must be protected in order for biodiversity conservation to succeed. Additionally, 40 percent of threatened and endangered species are found only on private land.² Identifying and permanently protecting land crucial to maintaining biodiversity, both in the public and private realms, can prevent the loss of important species and wildlife.

The table of Endangered Flora and Fauna of Beaufort County, compiled by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (page 3), lists the almost 50 species of plants and animals that have been documented in Beaufort County that are

¹ Estuarine Adaptations of Shrimp from Estuarine Ecology, Day et al., 1989, p.484 as cited by Beaufort County Comprehensive Plan, December 1997, Natural Resources element, p. 212.

² <http://www.biodiversitypartners.org/Incentives.html>

considered rare, threatened or endangered.³ A comprehensive open space and greenway plan can provide important protection for these species.

Nonpoint Source Pollution Mitigation

According to the Beaufort County Comprehensive Plan, the largest threat to water quality in Beaufort County comes from what is known as nonpoint source pollution. Nonpoint Source Pollution contains runoff, precipitation, atmospheric deposition, drainage and seepage. This type of pollution occurs during and after a rainstorm when pollutants and sediment are washed off the land and commonly includes pet waste, pesticides and herbicides, as well as oil and grease. Nonpoint source pollution is attributed to between one and two thirds of the threatened or existing impairment of South Carolina’s water bodies⁴. By protecting open space and riparian buffers, the negative impacts of non-point source pollution can be greatly mitigated.

³ The Department of Natural Resources, South Carolina Threatened, Rare and Endangered Species Inventory.

http://www.dnr.state.sc.us/pls/heritage/county_species.list?pcounty=beaufort
 For detailed local information contact, Julie Holling at julieh@scdnr.state.sc.us.

⁴ US Environmental Protection Agency, Managing Nonpoint Source Pollution, Final Report to Congress on Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, 1992 as cited by the Beaufort County Comprehensive Plan, December 1997, Natural Resources Element, Section 5.6 the Impacts to Water Quality pg.231.

Endangered Flora and Fauna of Beaufort County

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| SHORTNOSE STURGEON | RUSTY LYONIA |
| WHITE COLICROOT | EASTERN CORAL SNAKE |
| LARGE-FLOWER MILKWEED | BENTGRASS; HAIRGRASS |
| SAVANNAH MILKWEED | SOUTHEASTERN MYOTIS |
| BANDANA-OF-THE-
EVERGLADES | LITTLE BROWN MYOTIS |
| LOGGERHEAD SEA TURTLE | EASTERN WOODRAT |
| WILLDENOW'S SEDGE | OGEECHEE TUPELO |
| SHORE-LINE SEDGE | A PANICGRASS |
| LEAFLESS SWALLOW-WORT | BROWN PELICAN |
| MARSHLAND FLATSEDEGE | HARBOR SEAL |
| PIEDMONT FLATSEDEGE | HAIRY FEVER-TREE |
| GREEN-FLY ORCHID | GULF COAST MUD |
| CUPGRASS | SALAMANDER |
| GODFREY'S PRIVET | WHISK FERN |
| BALD EAGLE | BLUFF OAK |
| GEORGIA FROSTWEED | MYRTLE-LEAF OAK |
| SOUTHERN HOGNOSE SNAKE | NEEDLE PALM |
| BIRD-VOICED TREEFROG | A PETUNIA |
| LARGE-STEM MORNING-
GLORY | TINY-LEAVED BUCKTHORN |
| NORTHERN YELLOW BAT | EASTERN FOX SQUIRREL |
| SWAINSON'S WARBLER | LEAST TERN |
| PONDBERRY | POWDERY THALIA |
| DWARF BULRUSH | MANATEE |
| PONDSPICE | COLONIAL WATERBIRD |
| | EUPATORIUM |

Historic Preservation

Open Space also protects Beaufort's valuable heritage of natural beauty and history through the permanent protection of historic sites. The City of Beaufort is home to three batteries that have visible ruins and earthworks, these include: Battery Saxton, Battery Brayton and Battery Taylor. These batteries are linked to other area batteries which have been destroyed due to development. They represent an important chapter in the United States' history and should be protected. Two of the three batteries are located on private property and none of them are currently protected. This open space plan can identify, protect and make publicly accessible, valuable historic sites and resources.

Community Health

Trails and open space also help to promote healthier lifestyle choices. Through the encouragement of alternative transportation and outdoor recreation, important steps can be taken in fighting obesity and cardiac disease. Studies have shown that even moderate amounts of physical exercise can have numerous beneficial implications for cardiovascular and overall health. Walking has been negatively correlated to Body Mass Index, heart disease and certain types of diabetes. It has also been shown that access to trails increases the likelihood of exercise in certain areas. Studies have also shown that access to green space reduces violent tendencies and aggression in youth and has substantial mental health benefits. Providing a range of exercise opportunities for a community through trails and open space can beneficially impact both the physical and mental health of all citizens.

Economic Benefits

The creation of trails and open space also has important economic implications; these amenities can create jobs, increase property values and encourage businesses to relocate in a certain area in addition to protecting Beaufort County's valuable seafood industry. "The effect on property values of a location near a park, trail or open space has been shown to increase sales prices, increase the marketability of adjacent properties and promote faster sales. Sites adjacent to trails are more attractive to prospective tenants. An increase in property values generally results in increased tax revenues for local governments."⁵

Tourism

Open Space can also serve as a valuable source of tourism revenue. Trails and open space can attract nature-based tourism, and complement the cultural tourism industry that Beaufort already enjoys. Nature-based tourism is a thriving industry in many parts of the United States as well as in the State of South Carolina. The City of Beaufort has vast untapped potential to attract substantial revenue due to its greatest assets- its unique natural environment and waterways.

The development and implementation of an open space plan is a critical step in safeguarding the quality of life, livability and natural environment of a community.

⁵ "The Important Role of Trails and Open Space." The Trails and Open Space Coalition of Pikes Peak Region.
<http://www.trailsandopenspaces.org/Important-Role.htm>

IV. Plan Objectives

The objectives of this plan are as follows:

- To preserve open space within the City of Beaufort from the increasing pressure of rapid development.
- To manage growth and preserve the rich natural heritage of the City.
- To protect and expand view corridors.
- To protect critical habitat and maintain or increase existing bio-diversity with special emphasis on rare, threatened and endangered species.
- To minimize degradation to water quality due to non-point source pollution through the protection of important riparian and wetland buffers.
- To increase public access to the water and to provide greater recreational opportunities for all.
- To provide options for the use of alternative, non-motorized transportation such as walking and bicycling.



Pigeon Point Boat Landing



Marsh adjacent to Battery Brayton

V. Relevant Legislation

The South Carolina Conservation Bank Act, state house bill 48-59, was enacted April 10, 2002, to preserve and protect open space and critical habitat in the State of South Carolina. The Conservation Bank will award grants on a competitive basis to state agencies, municipal governments, non-profit land trusts and other qualified conservation groups. Land that is purchased outright will be used for parks, green space, public hunting areas and historical sites.

The bill states in part that:

There is a critical need to fund the preservation of, and public access to, wildlife habitats, outstanding natural areas, sites of unique ecological significance, historical sites, forestlands, farmlands, watersheds, and open space, and urban parklands as an essential element in the orderly development of the State.

The protection of open space by acquisition of interests in real property from willing sellers is essential to ensure that the State continues to enjoy the benefits of wildlife habitats, forestlands, farmlands, parks, historical sites, and healthy streams, rivers, bays, and estuaries; for recreational purposes, for scientific study, for aesthetic appreciation, for protection of critical water resources, to maintain the state's position as an attractive location for visitors and new industry, and to preserve the opportunities of future generations to access and benefit from the existence of the state's outstanding natural and historical sites.

It is critical to encourage cooperation and innovative partnerships among landowners, state agencies, municipalities, and nonprofit organizations, which must work together in order to meet these objectives.⁶

South Carolina Scenic Rivers Act of 1989, Section 49-29-10. Landowners donating perpetual easements to the State under the Scenic Rivers Act receive a deduction from state income tax equal to the fair market value of the easement granted. The value of a perpetual easement is determined as the difference between the fair market value of the total property before the land is burdened with the easement and the fair market value of the property after the easement is granted. After the grant of a perpetual easement, land subject to a permanent easement is exempt from all property taxes. Donors of land in fee simple may elect to take a deduction from state income tax equal to the value of the fee donated. For both donations in fee simple or easement, the donor may elect to take the deduction during a five-year period following the donation. The total deduction may be taken during any one year of the five-year period or the deduction may be taken in proportionate amounts during the five-year period. The value of the fee or easement must be assessed at the time of the donation.⁷

The Conservation Incentives Act, 2000 House Bill 3782 (enacted as Act 283) provides a state income tax credit for landowners who voluntarily convey lands or conservation

⁶ The South Carolina Conservation Bank Act, S.C. Code Ann., 48-59-10
<http://www.lpittr.state.sc.us/code/t48c059.htm>

⁷ *South Carolina Scenic Rivers Act of 1989*, Section 49-29-10.
<http://water.dnr.state.sc.us/water/envaff/river/srivact.html>

easements to qualified conservation organizations. The act allows for an income tax credit equal to 25 percent of the value of the land donated for conservation, or for a qualified conservation contribution of a real property interest. The tax credit is capped at \$250 per acre, not to exceed \$2,500 in any tax year. The act also established the Conservation Grant Fund to stimulate the use of conservation easements and fee simple gifts of land for conservation to qualified conservation organizations. Revenue in the fund will be used primarily to defray costs associated with donating conservation easements for purposes of obtaining a tax credit. The fund may not be used to purchase land or interests in land. The state incentive can be used together with an existing federal tax credit but may not exceed 25 percent of the federal deduction of \$52,000 in any one year. This incentive has been available since June 1, 2001.

The Beaufort County Rural and Critical Lands Preservation Ordinance number 99/19

This ordinance was enacted by the Beaufort County Council in 1999 and is intended to provide a means by which rural and critical lands may be protected and enhanced as economic and environmental resources of major importance; reduce and defer the need for major urban infrastructure improvements in the rural areas and expenditure of public funds for such purposes; to provide a means whereby land owners may preserve the rural character of their land and through the provision of financial incentives and security of land use and to leverage state, federal, local and private conservation efforts, development rights and funding to protect the investment of

taxpayers in purchased and donated conservation easements.⁸ This is a voluntary program in which Beaufort County will consider or pursue the acquisition of rural and critical lands from willing land owners. The ordinance allows for several methods of land protection including but not limited to, outright or fee simple purchase, purchase of development rights and/or conservation easement donation. The program has approximately \$40 million in general obligation bonds to be spent over the next several years.

Real Estate Transfer Fee

There is currently legislation pending in the South Carolina State Legislature which would allow municipalities to enact a real estate transfer fee which would be used for the purchase of lands to be used for open space. The fee would be limited to one quarter of one percent and would only be used for the acquisition of open space. This legislation is expected to be reintroduced in the 2004 Legislative session.

⁸ *Rural and Critical land Preservation Ordinance*, Beaufort County, SC 1999.

VI. Related Programs

The Schoolyard Habitats Program was created in 1995 by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) as an addition to the Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program to focus on assisting schools, teachers, students and community members in the use of school grounds as learning sites for wildlife conservation and cross-curricular learning. NWF recognizes the on-going efforts of schools across the country through a certification process. Certified schools provide essential habitat for wildlife, as well as use these sites as teaching tools integrated into the curriculum. To date, NWF has certified more than 1,000 schools nation-wide. South Carolina has more than 100 certified schools across the state - the second highest number in the nation. Two of those schools are located within Beaufort County- Lady's Island Middle School and Shell Point Elementary School. Habitat-based learning sites meet the needs of wildlife by providing the four critical habitat components: food, water, cover and places to raise young. The evolution of a habitat site is an ongoing learning process for all involved. It offers unlimited and diverse opportunities for active cross-curriculum learning and a new and creative outlet for meeting the requirements of national and state Standards of Learning.⁹ The School Yard Habitat program could play a valuable role in the City of Beaufort's Open Space Plan. Schoolyards are some of the largest areas of vacant land and could pose excellent opportunities for open space and habitat development.

⁹ The National Wildlife Federation
<http://www.scwf.org/articles/index.php?view=155>

Battery Brayton

Battery Brayton is a two-acre parcel of property located at the terminus of North Street on the marshes of Battery Creek. The Battery is a Civil War earthwork which consists of an open work with at least one clearly defined gun emplacement. The parapets range from 6 to 10 feet high and from 15 to 20 feet in width. There is only a portion of the Battery left, but what has survived is impressive and largely intact. Battery Brayton represents an important era in American history and should be preserved and developed into a historic park. The Battery is also adjacent to the Battery Creek Marsh which is facing increasing pressure from development and, if preserved, will provide an important riparian buffer.



The Battery Creek Greenway and Battery Saxton Park

The land fronting Battery Creek between 2030 and 2338 Boundary Street is some of the most ecological sensitive and visually important properties in the City. This area serves as one of the gateways to the historic downtown and the National Historic Landmark District. The greenway also serves as an important riparian buffer between Battery Creek and Boundary Street, one of the most heavily traveled streets in the City. Additionally a historic battery, Battery Saxton, the most visible and accessible Civil War earthworks existing in the area, is located on these properties. The Battery was armed with artillery pieces and garrisoned throughout the Civil War; the City intends to develop a historic park on the site. The City of Beaufort has begun the acquisition of property in this important area and plans to purchase all parcels.



VII. Permanent Protection Methods

Conservation Easements

A conservation easement is designed to exclude or limit certain activities on private land. Generally utilized to protect significant natural resources, conservation easements are legally binding covenants that are publicly recorded and run with the property deed for a specified period time or in perpetuity, regardless of the owner. Restrictions placed on land use vary depending on the easement agreement and covenants and may include only a part or all of a piece of property. If the easement meets certain federal guidelines the property owner may be eligible for tax benefits or credits. The value of the property for tax credit purposes is the difference of the assessed value of the land before and after the easement takes effect. By lowering the assessed value of a property, estate and property taxes can be lowered for a period of time or permanently depending on the stipulations of the easement. Easements should specify who is responsible for monitoring and enforcing the property restrictions imposed by the easement for as long as it is designed to run--generally a non-profit organization, a municipality, or a state agency. An easement does not necessarily grant ownership nor does it absolve the property owner from traditional owner responsibilities, i.e., property tax, upkeep, maintenance, or improvements, unless specified by the easement agreement or as qualified under federal tax law.

Fee Simple Purchase

Fee Simple Transfer is a process in which a property is purchased for an agreed upon price. Deed restrictions may be part of the purchase agreement. It is generally recommended that a conservation easement be placed upon the property in order to ensure its permanent protection.

Purchase of Development Rights

The purchase of development rights involves the purchase of a land owners right to develop their land; it does not involve the actual purchase of the land itself. This type of land protection generally involves an amendment to the deed of some sort and an agent responsible for the enforcement of the agreement.

VIII. Priority Acquisition Areas

The seven priority acquisition areas, in order of importance, in the City of Beaufort are listed below. The map of these areas can be found in Appendix A.1. Open Space Master Plan Map.

1. Battery Creek Greenway/ Battery Saxton Park
2. Factory Creek Greenway
3. Albergotti Creek Greenway
4. Battery Brayton
5. Polk Island
6. Tom Island
7. Albergotti Marsh Trail
8. Sycamore Park

Albergotti Creek Greenway

The future Albergotti Creek Greenway consists of 16 parcels between Albergotti Creek and Boundary Street/Hwy 21 which are relatively shallow and in very close proximity to sensitive waterways. This area is an important corridor and one of the main entrances into the City of Beaufort. There are a number of businesses located on these properties which could pose a significant threat to water quality through non-point source pollution. The goal is to restore these parcels to their natural state with an incorporated walking trail. The enhancements to this area will vastly improve the entrance into the city and provide critical riparian protection as well as an important view corridor.



X. Implementation Recommendations

- Sell the Joyner Street Property to replenish the Land Acquisition Fund.
- Pursue funding opportunities such as grants.
- Explore local funding options such as real estate transfer fees, impact fees, special assessment districts, general obligation bonds or revenue bonds.
- Pursue public input on open space acquisition through public meetings and charrettes.
- Conduct a thorough study of all government owned property within the City of Beaufort in order to identify key property to be preserved for habitat and open space as well as to identify surplus property that could be sold and used for future open space acquisition.
- Begin a campaign to enlist landowners in donating conservation easements on sites of historic value and sites with valuable wildlife habitat or open space.
- Develop incentive packages for landowners who donate conservation easements on all or part of their land.
- Develop a ranking criterion for properties, both public and private, to be inventoried and acquired.
- Begin purchasing property for preservation identified by the Open Space Acquisition Map.
- Pursue permanent conservation easements on critical lands and open space owned by the City of Beaufort and other government entities.
- Coordinate with other agencies to acquire key properties.

Factory Creek Greenway

The future Factory Creek Greenway consists of 6 parcels between Factory Creek and Sea Island Parkway which are extremely shallow and in very close proximity to sensitive waterways. This area is an important view corridor and boasts some of the most picturesque views crossing the Woods Memorial Bridge. These properties also provide a link to the Factory Creek Boat Landing. The goal is to restore these parcels to their natural state with an incorporated walking trail. The enhancements to this area will improve public access to the water, provide critical riparian protection and safeguard an important view corridor.



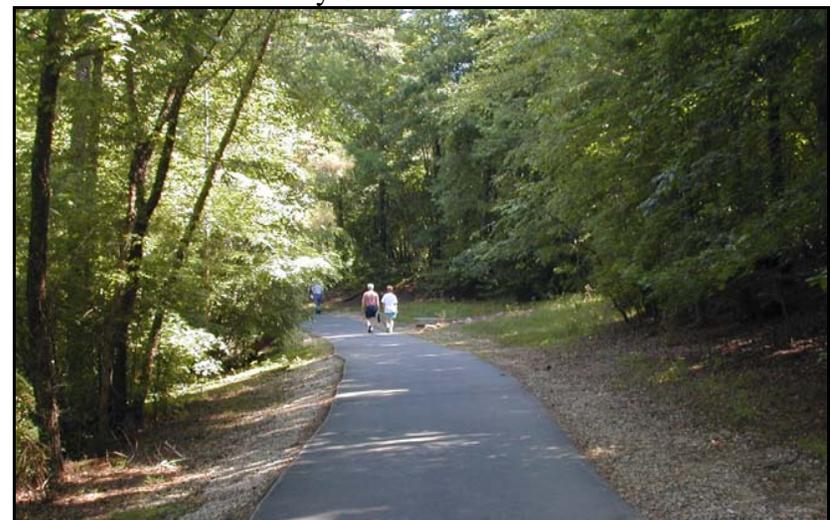
XI. Proposed Future Open Space

The Open Space Master Plan Map attached in Appendix A.3. shows the proposed areas of open space as well as existing parks, cemeteries and open space. If the entire parcel is selected, it indicates that the entire parcel is to be acquired. If only part of a property is highlighted, then either a 50 or 100 foot riparian buffer/walking trail is desired. Whether the buffer/trail is 50 feet or 100 feet is indicated by the width of area highlighted. There are seven general areas that the City of Beaufort is focusing on for open space acquisition; these include: The Battery Creek Greenway, Battery Saxton Park, Battery Brayton, The Albergotti Creek Greenway, Polk Island, Factory Creek Greenway, Tom Island, and Sycamore Park.

More detailed listing of the particular properties can be found in Appendices A.1. and A.2. The Table of Proposed Properties to be acquired for Open Space, Appendix A.2., shows the property name, parcel identification number, location, current status and the reason for acquisition of that property. The Table of Current Parks, Cemeteries and Open Space, Appendix A.1., shows the names of the current park, the parcel identification number, and the owner.



Beaufort River from Bay Street



Greenway in Raleigh, North Carolina

XII. Funding Sources

Transportation Enhancement Program

The Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st Century

This Act provides States with funds to acquire land for trails, historic preservation, scenic enhancement and water pollution mitigation through the Transportation Enhancement Program. The Federal provision fosters more personal choices for all people, including those with disabilities for travel by providing funding for sidewalks, bike facilities and the conversion to trails of abandoned railroad rights-of-way. Communities may also use the program to revitalize local and regional economies by restoring historic buildings, renovating streetscapes, or providing transportation museums and visitor centers. Many also use the program to acquire, restore, and preserve scenic areas. Applicants must be a government entity and hold the legislative power to carry out the project. There is a 20% match.

Contact Information: SCDOT Office of Beautification Programs at 955 Park Street, Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 737-1953.

http://www.dot.state.sc.us/community/tep_app.html

Recreation Land Trust Fund

The S.C. Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism

This is a state funded program that provides grants of up to \$100,000 for acquisition of property for public recreation. Requires a 50% match.

Contact Information:

SC Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism
1205 Pendleton St., Room 505 Columbia SC 29201

The Land and Water Conservation Fund

The S.C. Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism

This program provides grants up to \$250,000 for acquisition or development of outdoor recreation facilities. Requires a 50% match.

Contact Information:

SC Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism
1205 Pendleton St., Room 505 Columbia SC 29201

The South Carolina Conservation Bank

Beginning in July 2004, the South Carolina Conservation Bank will provide grants on a competitive basis to qualified applicants for acquisition and protection of open space. For more information please see Section V. Relevant Legislation, of this report.

Contact information: call (803) 734-3986 in Columbia

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (103 Stat. 1968; 16 U.S.C. 4401-4412) -- Public Law 101-233, enacted in 1989, provides funding and administrative direction for implementation of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and the Tripartite Agreement on wetlands between Canada, U.S. and Mexico. The Act converts the Pittman-Robertson account into a trust fund, with the interest available without appropriation through the year 2006 to carry out the programs authorized by the Act, along with an authorization for annual appropriation of \$15 million plus an amount equal to the fines and forfeitures collected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Contact Information: Department of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, North American Wetlands Conservation Council. 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop 4075 Arlington, VA 22203. (703) 358-1784
www.birdhabitat.fws.gov

Pittman-Robertson Act

Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act

This act provides funding for the selection, restoration, rehabilitation, and improvement of wildlife habitat. Funds projects in North America that acquire, enhance, and restore wetland ecosystems for water fowl and other migratory birds. States apply or reimbursement for up to 75 percent of project expenses.

Contact Information: U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service www.fws.gov/r9nawwo/nawcahp.html

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act

Encourages public private partnerships to conserve wetland ecosystems. Funds projects in North America that acquire enhance and restore wetland ecosystems for waterfowl and other migratory birds.

Contact Information: U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service www.fws.gov/r9nawwo/nawcahp.html

Urban Park and Recreation Recovery

This program provides federal assistance to urban localities for the rehabilitation of recreational facilities while encouraging

the continuing operations and maintenance of recreational programs.

Contact Information: National Park Services
www.ncrp.dot.gov/tea21/index.htm

Wetlands Reserve Program

This is a private program for landowner to partner with federal government to place either a permanent or 30-year easement, or a restoration cost share agreement for a minimum of 10 years. The land must be restorable and suitable for wildlife benefits and the landowner continues to control access to the land.

Contact Information: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service
www.nhq.nrcs.usda.gov/PROGRAMS/wrp/

The Beaufort County Rural and Critical Lands Program

Contact Information: John Holloway, Beaufort County Planning (843) 470-2732

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Appendix A.1.
List of Current Parks, Open Space and Cemeteries

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Appendix A.2.
List of Properties Proposed to be Acquired for Open Space

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Appendix A.3.
Open Space Master Plan Map