

[Charleston County Council](#) tasked the [Greenbelt Advisory Board \(GAB\)](#) with reviewing the Charleston County Greenbelt Programs to include outreach to small landowners, further funding for urban unincorporated areas, and urban allocations for beach communities. Council also requested the GAB consider revising the Rural Criteria to prioritize easements that have public access and use.

Below are the GAB's recommended changes to the Greenbelt Programs that will be presented to County Council on Thursday, May 13, 2010. Council will hear comments on these recommendations at a public hearing scheduled for 6:30 pm on Tuesday, May 18th.

1. **Outreach to Small Landowners** – Recommendation is to direct Greenbelt staff to work with the Mount Pleasant Land Conservancy staff to develop a procedure for projects with County-wide small landowners that would be presented to the GAB and County Council for approval. It is further recommended that the source of funding for these projects would be \$1.2 million from rural funds and that the draft procedure define a minimum score the projects must obtain in order to be considered for funding.
2. **Additional Allocation for Urban Unincorporated Areas** – No change is recommended.
3. **Urban Allocations to Beach Communities** – Recommendation is to allow the beach towns to submit applications to use their urban allocations for allowable minor improvements on land the towns currently own. The improvements would be restricted to those allowed in the Comprehensive Greenbelt Plan: boardwalks, foot bridges, unpaved trails, unpaved roadways and unpaved small parking areas. Also, the beach towns would have to agree to place the land under the same covenants and restrictions as all other lands protected with greenbelt funds. Applications for minor improvements would be limited to the beach towns (Folly Beach, Isle of Palms, Kiawah Island, Seabrook Island and Sullivan's Island).
4. **Amendments to Rural Criteria** – No change is recommended.
5. **Using Additional Tools in Conservation Toolbox** – No change is recommended.
6. **Greenway Corridors Goal** – Recommendation is to restate the Greenway Corridors goal as 200 miles instead of 1,200 acres and use trails developed on properties protected through the Greenbelt Program; bike and pedestrian trails developed through the Roadwise Program; and trails developed through other partnering agencies to assist in meeting this 200 mile goal.
7. **Marketing Campaign** – Recommendation is to task Greenbelt Staff to work with County's Public Information Staff to create a draft marketing plan/strategy to highlight the properties protected through the Greenbelt Program. Any funding needed for marketing materials will be paid from the Greenbelt Administration Budget. The draft marketing plan/strategy will be presented to the Greenbelt Advisory Board for approval.
8. **Updated Greenspace Inventory** – Recommendation is to task Greenbelt Staff to gather current data on Charleston County properties protected by organizations outside the Greenbelt Program in order to calculate the total number of acres currently protected.