



5 IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Overview

Implementing the recommendations within the Comprehensive Greenbelt Plan will require leadership on the part of Charleston County and a dedication to stewardship of critically important natural resources. Charleston County Council has laid the foundation by establishing the Charleston County Greenbelt Bank as well as allocating \$36 million of the Greenbelt funds to the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission (PRC) for land acquisition. The Greenbelt Plan builds on this foundation by recommending that both the Greenbelt Bank and the PRC expand their roles in the implementation of the Greenbelt Program. Additionally, the Greenbelt Plan recommends that Charleston County take steps necessary to leverage the majority of greenbelt funds up-front (within the next five years) to maximize land conservation objectives. The Greenbelt Plan has defined a bold vision for the County for the next 25 years:

To grow the economy of Charleston County while conserving and protecting the Lowcountry resources that make the County a wonderful place to live.

5.2 Implementation Resources

5.2.1 Leverage Sales Tax Proceeds

The Greenbelt Advisory Board recommends that Charleston County Council permit a bond referendum during the November 2006 General Election. The referendum would ask the voters to authorize the issuance of two bonds in principal amounts to be determined by County Council in such a way that will maximize the anticipated income stream from the Transportation Sales Tax for Greenbelt purposes.



5.2.2 *The Regulatory Framework*

In addition to maximizing the Transportation Sales Tax proceeds, the County should also coordinate the use of land use regulations to maximize its conservation efforts. The Greenbelt Plan includes the use of existing land use regulations within municipalities and Charleston County to conserve and protect land and water resources (see Chapter 2, p. 2-16). An analysis of existing land use regulations was completed by the consultant and serves to define elements of the codes that could be modified to encourage the conservation of natural and cultural resources. The recommendations for the modification to existing county and municipal codes are consistent with applicable land use principles and South Carolina laws.

5.2.3 *The Conservation Toolbox*

The Greenbelt Plan also contains a toolbox that provides Charleston County and the local jurisdictions with a quick reference of land conservation strategies (see Appendix E). Many of the tools defined can be used together or separately to conserve greenspace throughout the County. This toolbox defines 32 individual strategies, divided into distinct sections: regulatory, acquisition, land donation and management strategies. For each strategy, advantages and disadvantages are listed to help define the most appropriate strategy for a given opportunity. The Greenbelt Plan does not recommend the use of the tools of eminent domain or land condemnation for greenspace conservation.

5.2.4 *Coordination with the TAB*

The Charleston County Greenbelt Advisory Board and Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) have initiated dialog that is intended to insure a coordinated process for developing the Greenbelt and Transportation Plans. Of greatest interest is the coordination of sales tax expenditures to maximize buying power and effectiveness of the program. There are two areas where cooperation between the two programs can yield beneficial results for County residents:

- 1) Purchase of greenspace and rights-of-way, using Greenbelt Funds, for the future development of greenway, bicycle and pedestrian projects;
- 2) Expenditure of Transportation Funds to build greenway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities within the rights-of-way purchased.

The use of both funding streams should be a continued area of focus for Charleston County, so that the maximum benefit is derived for County residents.

5.2.5 *Additional Resources*

In addition to these strategies, and tools, the Greenbelt Plan also includes several other implementation resources. A greenspace glossary defines common terms and provides examples of various types of greenspace (see Appendix A). Additionally, the benefits of greenspace are summarized in Appendix G. Finally, a list of funding sources is included in Appendix F to help maximize the Greenbelt funds and encourage local, regional, state and federal-level participation in the success of this plan.

5.3 Allocation Formula for Greenbelt Funds

The Greenbelt Advisory Board (GAB) recommends that sales tax proceeds be used for the purpose of greenspace conservation and related minor improvements. The allocation of funds to rural and urban areas shall be based on a formula of 70% of the proceeds for the rural area and 30% for the urban area. Rural and urban areas defined in this Plan are consistent with the adopted Charleston County Comprehensive Plan (see the Urban/Rural Map in Chapter 4, p. 4-5). Distribution of the urban funds will be based on the population of the municipality or unincorporated areas in which the project is to be implemented. The aggregate population of all unincorporated areas lying within the urban boundary will be used to calculate the amount of sales tax proceeds devoted to projects in these areas.

Rural Area is defined to include the municipalities and unincorporated areas that are located in the West St. Andrews area in West Ashley, Wadmalaw Island, Edisto Island, the St. Pauls area, Hollywood, Meggett, Ravenel, Rockville, Awendaw and McClellanville and portions of Johns Island, West Ashley and East Cooper areas as defined as lying outside the Charleston County Urban/Suburban Area Boundary.

Urban Area is defined to include the municipalities and unincorporated areas that are located within the Charleston County Urban Suburban Growth Boundary, as defined within the Charleston County Comprehensive



sive Plan. The municipalities and unincorporated lands within this boundary include: Charleston Peninsula, the City of North Charleston, Lincolnville, Mount Pleasant, Isle of Palms, Sullivan's Island, James Island, Folly Beach, Kiawah Island, Seabrook Island, and portions of Johns Island, West Ashley and East Cooper areas.

5.4 Implementation Budget

Charleston County will operate and implement the Greenbelt Program using funds from the Transportation (Half-cent) Sales Tax. The total amount of funding available for the Greenbelt program is \$221,571,200. The approximate debt service on the funds earmarked for the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission is \$55 million. Five percent of the total greenbelt funds have been reserved to operate and implement the program, equaling approximately \$11 million in funding. These funds are to be used over the life of the Greenbelt program to pay all associated operating and implementation costs. This leaves approximately \$155 million to allocate to the Rural and Urban areas for land purchase.

Using the rural/urban allocation formula defined by the Greenbelt Advisory Board, 70% would be devoted to the conservation and protection of lands in the Rural area of Charleston County, while 30% will be dedicated to greenspace conservation within the Urban area of the County.

5.5 Organizational Framework for Implementation

Charleston County will serve as the lead organization for the implementation of the Greenbelt Program. The following text describes the role of key public and private sector organizations in carrying out the objectives of this Plan.

5.5.1 Role of Charleston County Council

Charleston County Council is the ultimate decision maker for every aspect of implementation involving the Greenbelt Program. Council will receive advice from two principal groups, in accordance with County Ordinance #1343. The Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission and the Greenbelt Advisory Board

will provide Council with advice and direction on how the Greenbelt portion of the Transportation Sales Tax proceeds should be spent in each fiscal year. In accordance with County Ordinance #1324, County Council shall adopt annually and prior to the beginning of each fiscal year a budget for expenditures of Sales and Use Tax revenues. In the preparation of the annual budget, County Council may require any reports, estimates, and statistics from any county agency or department as may be necessary to perform its duties as the responsible fiscal body of the County.

5.5.2 Role of the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission

The Role of the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission (PRC), as related to the implementation of the Greenbelt Program, is established by County Ordinance #1343. Within this ordinance, the PRC shall annually present recommendations for expenditures on Greenbelt projects for County Council approval. This Plan recommends a slightly different role for the PRC from what is defined in County Ordinance # 1343.

This Plan recommends that the PRC be involved in implementation of the Greenbelt program by administering the Urban Grants Program (see the Organizational Framework for Implementation on the following page). In the Urban Grants Program, PRC will receive applications for projects in the Urban Area. Then, a specially constituted Urban Grant Review Committee will evaluate the project application based on criteria (see p. 5-9). Finally, PRC will make funding recommendations to County Council for urban area projects.

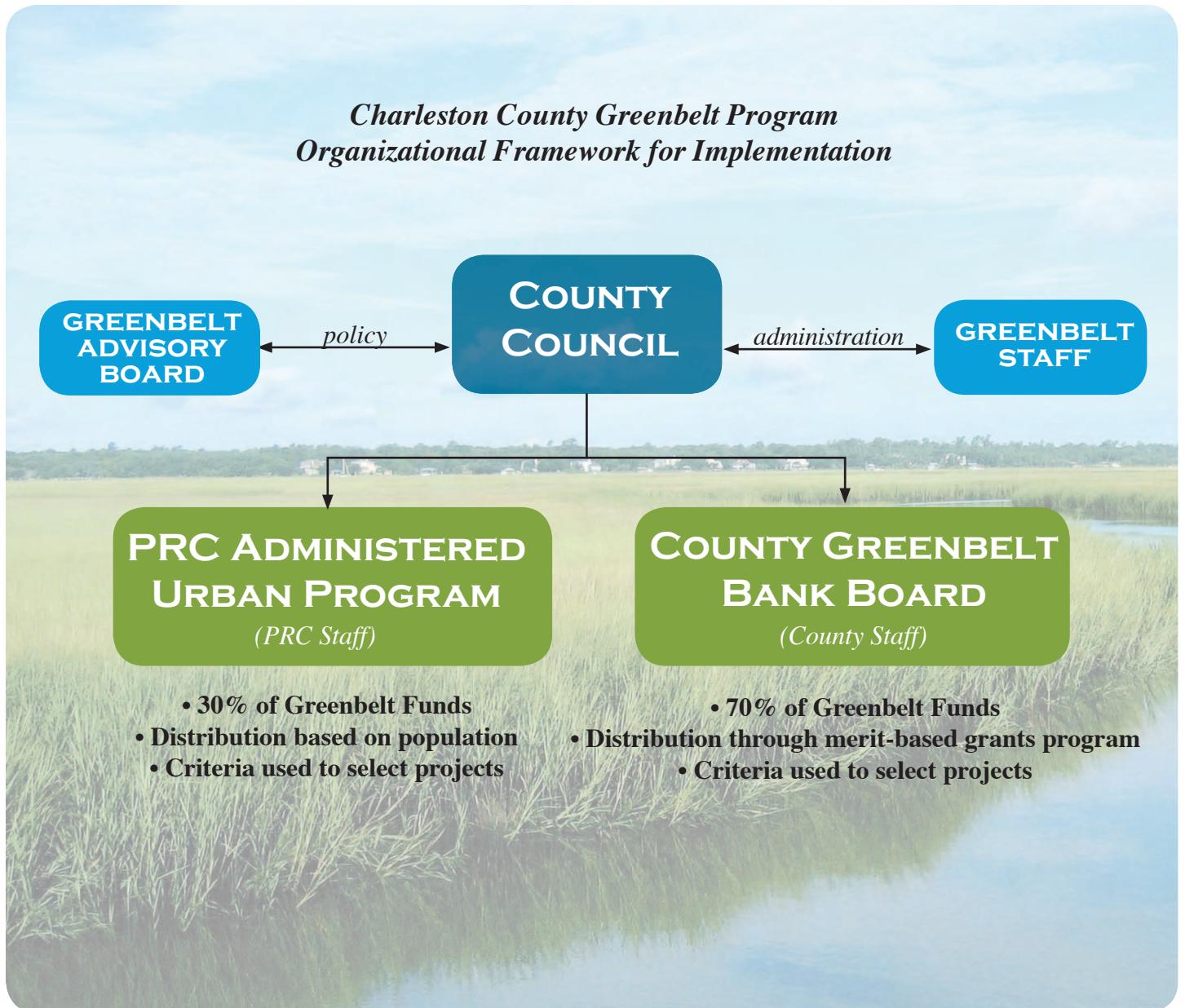
5.5.3 Role of the Greenbelt Advisory Board

The role of the Greenbelt Advisory Board is defined within County Ordinance #1343, and includes preparing and delivering to the PRC and County Council its findings and recommendations for the Comprehensive Greenbelt Plan. The GAB has also been responsible for soliciting input from the public during its planning efforts.

This Plan recommends that the GAB continue to serve as a principal advisor to County Council and will continue to solicit input from the public. The continuing role of the GAB will be in the areas of recommending



*Charleston County Greenbelt Program
Organizational Framework for Implementation*





Members of the GAB in March 2006; Starting in back row, from left to right: J. Marshall Allen, Ray Singleton, Warwick Jones, Chuck Bennett, Jr., Henry “Dickie” Schweers, Thomas Johnson, Raymond H. Anderson, Jr., Edwin H. Cooper, III, Lawrence O. Thompson, Arthur Ravenel, Louise J. Maybank (Chair), Mack Canterbury (Vice Chair), and Megan Terebus (James Duggan not pictured).

policy and advocating for the full implementation of the Comprehensive Greenbelt Plan. The GAB will be responsible for evaluating the implementation of the rural and urban grants programs, and providing feedback as to how it can be improved over the life of the program. The GAB shall also be responsible for assisting Charleston County Council and county staff in updating this Comprehensive Greenbelt Plan. The update shall occur no later than 2011.

5.5.4 Role of the Charleston County Greenbelt Bank

The Charleston County Greenbelt Bank is modeled after the State of South Carolina Conservation Bank. As such it is intended to foster cooperation and innovative partnerships among landowners, state agencies, local governments, and nonprofit organizations to meet the objectives of the Transportation Sales Tax Program and this Comprehensive Greenbelt Plan.

The Charleston County Greenbelt Bank will also be involved in implementation of the Greenbelt program on two levels. First, the Charleston County Greenbelt Bank will acquire land for conservation using criteria through a proactive approach, rather than solely through the application process. All acquisitions are subject to approval from Charleston County Council.

The second aspect of implementation for the Charleston County Greenbelt Bank is the administration of the Rural Grants Program (see Organizational Framework for Implementation, p.5-4). Under this program, the Charleston County Greenbelt Bank will receive applications for projects in the Rural Area. The Greenbelt Bank board and staff will evaluate project applications based on scoring criteria provided on page 5-7. The Greenbelt Bank will recommend to Charleston County Council, the award of grants, based on the merit-based scoring system.

5.5.5 Role of the Charleston County Staff

The Charleston County Administrator shall establish the annual work program for County staff as related to the implementation of this Greenbelt Plan. The County Administrator and staff will work with the Charleston County Greenbelt Bank to administer the program outlined above. County staff will also provide information and materials to the County Council for the full implementation of this Plan. Finally, County staff will also continue to assist the GAB in carrying out its duties and responsibilities.



5.5.6 Role of Municipal Governments

Municipalities will be able to participate in the Greenbelt Program by submitting grant applications to address greenspace conservation projects within the urban area. Municipal governments will acquire greenspace for a variety of purposes, including, but not limited to: urban parks, the reclamation of brownfields and other development sites, protection of wetlands and for the future development of greenways.

5.5.7 Role of Private Sector Organizations

Charleston County has an outstanding legacy of land conservation organizations that have accomplished significant land and water protection strategies. Private civic and non-profit organizations can help to educate residents about the goals and objectives of the plan, as well as help to organize greenspace management activities. Local civic groups, including Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, garden clubs, Sierra Club chapters, retired volunteers can also be participants in the program. They can help to build greenway facilities, public waterway access areas, and promote land conservation strategies. Private Organizations may apply, either on behalf of others or on its own behalf, for Greenbelt Funds that are dedicated for the urban unincorporated areas as well as within the rural areas.

5.6 Rural & Urban Grants Program

The first step in implementing the recommendations within this Plan is to have it officially adopted by Charleston County Council. Following the adoption of this Plan, the County should immediately begin to implement a Rural and Urban Grants Program to distribute the Greenbelt portion of the Transportation Sales Tax proceeds in the form of financial grants to urban and rural areas of the County. The purpose of these grants is to distribute funding in an equitable manner for the conservation of greenspace throughout the County.

Grants are to be used primarily for the conservation of land, however some grant funds can be used to support the development of related minor improvements that in essence provide for public access and use of conservation lands.

All potential recipients of grants funds (municipalities, unincorporated areas, conservation organizations, land-owners, businesses, etc.) will be required to complete and submit grant applications that define need and intended use of the proceeds for greenspace conservation and related minor improvements. Rural grant applications and urban grant applications will be separated and then evaluated. The criteria used for selecting projects are listed on pages 5-7 and 5-9.

5.6.1 Rural Grants Program

The Rural Area of Charleston County is defined by the Comprehensive Greenbelt Plan as the municipalities and unincorporated areas that are located outside the Charleston County Urban Suburban Growth Boundary, as defined within the Charleston County Comprehensive Plan. The municipalities and unincorporated lands outside this boundary include: the West St. Andrews area in West Ashley, Wadmalaw Island, Edisto Island, the St. Pauls area, Hollywood, Meggett, Ravenel, Rockville, Awendaw and McClellanville and portions of Johns Island, West Ashley and East Cooper.

Eligible Projects

Charleston County will operate a rural grants program to promote rural land conservation, wetlands protection, historic and cultural preservation, parkland acquisition, greenway and trail acquisition, and waterway access acquisition. Except for the minor improvements stated below, rural funds can be used for the acquisition of land and/or purchase of development rights on property within the rural area. 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.

Application Process

This Plan recommends that the Charleston County Greenbelt Bank assist County Council in administering the distribution of the rural allocation funds. This will be accomplished by developing an application form, distributing the applications to eligible recipients, collecting applications and facilitating a process where each application is evaluated against the rural criteria.



Applicants must submit an application form, including a master plan of the proposed project, a project narrative and proposed budget.

Evaluating Applications

The 70% rural allocation will be awarded to the municipalities and unincorporated areas defined above based on merit. The County Greenbelt Bank Board will issue a call for proposals and will receive grant applications from eligible landowners, land conservation organizations, municipalities, and other qualified organizations. Using the following criteria, each rural grant application will be scored by the Greenbelt Bank Board to determine which of the scored applications will be recommended to County Council for funding.

Award of Rural Grants

Projects meeting the criteria will be recommended to Charleston County Council for funding within the fiscal year the application is approved. Recipients must recognize the source of the funding for their projects through the use of on-site signage and in any information and marketing materials that are released to the

public. Once applications are approved, grant agreements outlining the terms and conditions will be developed between the County and appropriate parties.

Distribution of Funds to Grant Recipients

Upon completion of a project that has met all of the funding requirements, reimbursement in the specified grant amount will be provided to the applicant at the time of closing, when the property is acquired and the deed is recorded.

Evaluation of Awarded Grants

The Greenbelt Bank Board will conduct a post evaluation of all awarded grants to ensure that the funds have been appropriately spent for the conservation of greenspace. All grant recipients will be required to acknowledge the source of funding through on-site signage and within all marketing and promotion materials that are released to the public. Grant award recipients with non-compliant projects will receive prompt notification, and will be ineligible for future funding until they are compliant.

Rural Grants Program Criteria

Tell Us About the Project	30 Points
What are the distinguishing characteristics	10 points
Where is it located and what is the size of the project	5 points
How will the project address public access and use	5 points
How will the project be managed	5 points
Is the project ready for immediate action	5 points
What Makes the Project Special	35 Points
What are the environmental features	10 points
What are the historical and cultural features	10 points
How is Quality of Life addressed	5 points
What are the linkage opportunities	5 points
Is the project consistent with adopted plans	5 points
How Can We Make the Project Work	35 Points
Describe the funding and leveraging for the project	15 points
Who are the financial partners for the project	5 points
What is the level of public support	5 points
Who are the non-financial partners for the project	5 points
Describe the manner in which the project will be implemented	5 points
Total Possible Points	100 Points



5.6.2 Urban Grants Program

Urban areas of Charleston County are defined by the Comprehensive Greenbelt Plan as the municipalities and unincorporated areas that are located within the Charleston County Urban Suburban Growth Boundary, as defined within the Charleston County Comprehensive Plan. The municipalities and unincorporated lands within this boundary include: Charleston, City of North Charleston, Mount Pleasant, Lincolntonville, Folly Beach, Kiawah Island, Isle of Palms, Sullivan’s Island, Seabrook Island, James Island, and portions of John’s Island, West Ashley and East Cooper areas.

Urban Distribution by Population Formula

The 30% urban allocation will be divided among the municipalities and unincorporated areas defined above, according to the population of each (per the 2000 U.S. Census). Unincorporated areas that are located within the Urban Area will apply for grant funding through the Urban Grants Program. All unincorporated areas will be considered as a single land area and their total population used to determine the amount of their allocation. The following table provides an estimate of how the urban allocation will be distributed based on the 2000 U.S. Census population figures for each municipality and unincorporated area. The funding allocation to each municipality and unincorporated area will be reviewed and updated as necessary based on the decennial U.S. Census.

Eligible Projects

Except for the minor improvements stated below, urban funds can be used for the acquisition of land and/or purchase of development rights on property within the urban area. 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.

Urban Population Estimate

Municipality	Population (U.S. Census 2000)	Percent of Population
Charleston	95,528	34.69%
Folly Beach	2,116	0.77%
Isle of Palms	4,583	1.66%
James Island	18,341	6.66%
Kiawah Island	1,163	0.42%
Lincolntonville	904	0.33%
Mt. Pleasant	47,609	17.29%
N. Charleston	76,244	27.69%
Seabrook Island	1,250	0.45%
Sullivan's Island	1,911	0.69%
Unincorporated	25,734	9.34%
Total	275,383	100.00%

Note: On January 9, 2007 County Council amended the Comprehensive Greenbelt Plan to include the Town of James Island in the Urban Allocation table.

Application Process

The Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission has agreed to assist Charleston County Council in administering the distribution of the urban allocation funds. The PRC will accomplish this by developing an application form, distributing the applications to eligible recipients within the urban area, collecting applications and facilitating a process where each application is evaluated against the urban criteria in order to verify grant awards. The PRC will recommend to Charleston County Council those applicants that should be awarded grants. Applicants must submit an application form, including a master plan of the proposed project, a project narrative and proposed budget.

Evaluating Applications

The Charleston County PRC will assemble an Urban Grant Review Committee comprised of 2 PRC staff, 2 Charleston County staff, and 2 Greenbelt Advisory Board members to evaluate applications that are submitted by the municipalities and unincorporated areas. The PRC will work with the Chair and Vice Chair of the GAB to select representatives. Quarterly deadlines will be established for accepting the applications, and the Review Committee will meet at a frequency to be established by the PRC to review and evaluate the applications.



The first task of the Committee shall be to craft the evaluation procedure and methodology that will be used to verify grant recipients. This methodology should be based on the guidance that is provided by the GAB and should be presented to the GAB for review, discussion and approval prior to awarding the first round of grants. The GAB recommends the checklist below be used to evaluate applications for urban Greenbelt funds.

Award of Urban Grants

Projects meeting the criteria will be recommended to Charleston County Council for funding within the fiscal year the application is approved. Recipients must recognize the source of the funding for their projects through the use of on-site signage and in any information and marketing materials that are released to the

public. Once applications are approved, grant agreements outlining the terms and conditions will be developed between the County and appropriate parties.

Distribution of Funds to Grant Recipients

Upon completion of a project that has met all of the funding requirements, reimbursement in the specified grant amount will be provided to the applicant at the time of closing, when the property is acquired and the deed is recorded.

Evaluation of Awarded Grants

The Urban Grant Review Committee agrees to evaluate all grants that have been awarded within the urban areas to ensure that sales tax funds have indeed been spent in accordance with the goals, objectives and in-

Urban Grants Program Checklist

- Applicant has provided a description of the projects' distinguishing characteristics.
- Applicant has described the project location and size of the parcel of land to be conserved and protect as greenspace.
- Applicant has defined how the project will address public access and use.
- Applicant has defined how the project will be managed and which agency will be responsible for such management.
- The applicant has stated that the project is ready for immediate action and has provided a timeline for acquiring, protecting or conserving the resource.
- Applicant has provided a complete description of the environmental features that are to be conserved, protected and/or restored by virtue of project implementation. (if applicable)
- Applicant has provided a complete description of the historical and cultural features of the resource that are to be protected and conserved. (if applicable)
- Applicant has defined how this project will address and benefit the quality of life for residents of the municipality, unincorporated area and/or Charleston County.
- Applicant has addressed how the project is linked to other conservation initiatives, local parks, greenways and other key landscapes of the municipality or unincorporated area.
- Applicant has described how this project conforms, complies and is in keeping with other adopted plans, including the County Comprehensive Greenbelt Plan.
- Applicant has provided a description of the funding for the project.
- Applicant has described how the Urban Greenbelt Funds will be leveraged with other funds and/or in-kind support.
- Applicant has defined the financial partners for the project.
- Applicant has described the level of public support for the project.
- Applicant has defined and described the roles of non-financial partners.
- Applicant has described how the project will be implemented, in terms of who will carry out the acquisition, how ownership will be transferred and who will take possession of the parcel.



tent of the Greenbelt Program. Municipalities/entities must submit a report (in a form to be developed by the Review Committee) documenting expenditures to the Urban Grant Review Committee at the completion of each project. An on-site review by the Committee will take place to verify that the project has met the requirements. Municipalities/entities with projects that are not in compliance will receive notification, and will be ineligible for future funding until they are compliant.

5.7 Next Steps

The next steps that Charleston County should take to implement the recommendations contained within this Comprehensive Greenbelt Plan are defined within the following tables. There are a number of different recommendations, which are grouped into short-term (FY 2006-2008), mid-term (FY 2009-2011) and long-term (FY 2012-2016) categories.

CHARLESTON COUNTY GREENBELT PLAN ACTION STEPS			
TASKS	LEAD AGENCY AND SUPPORT GROUPS	DETAILS	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE
SHORT TERM STRATEGIES (FY 06-08)			
Create Applications for the Rural and Urban Grants Program	County Greenbelt Program Staff with review by Greenbelt Advisory Board, Greenbelt Bank and PRC	Use applications created by similar programs to guide this work, specifically the South Carolina Conservation Bank	Complete by August 2006
Employ or designate staff to assist Greenbelt Bank Board to carry out its duties.	Charleston County Administrator	Recommend using current staff within Planning Dept.	Complete by August 2006
Make changes to County and municipal land development codes.	Professional Consultant and County Staff with input from local governments	Intent is to establish more uniformity in the way land use codes are structured to encourage conservation during the land development process.	Begin no later than August 2006
Appoint members to the Charleston County Greenbelt Bank Board.	Charleston County Council	Must meet criteria of ordinance.	No Later than October 2006
PRC to establish Urban Grant Review Committee	PRC	The Committee will consist of 2 PRC staff, 2 Charleston County staff, and 2 GAB members.	No Later than October 2006
Establish an information exchange program with Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce	GAB, Greenbelt Bank assisted by County Staff	Regularly scheduled meetings to discuss benefits of Greenbelt Program.	Begin no later than October 2006
County Council to place referendum on November 6th ballot	Charleston County Council	Would enable Charleston County to extend borrowing limits beyond State cap.	November 6, 2006
Issue a Call for Proposals to award the first two rounds of Rural and Urban Grants for FY 2007 and 2008.	Greenbelt Bank and PRC with assistance from GAB and County staff	Call should provide organizations, local governments and citizens with details of how to apply for grants.	Issue Call no later than January 2007
Define and adopt an annual work program for the Greenbelt Program	Charleston County Administrator	Planning Staff can work with Greenbelts Bank and PRC to define specific work program.	Adopt with annual County Budget cycle
Support PRC in its efforts to acquire key regional park sites.	GAB, Greenbelt Bank and County Staff	Given sensitivity of land acquisition, there may be limited assistance that can be provided.	Begin after adoption of Greenbelt Plan
County Greenbelt Bank and GAB to report annually to County Council the activities of the Greenbelt Program	Greenbelt Advisory Board, Greenbelt Bank with assistance from County staff	Should feature the rural and urban grants programs, partnership activities, promotion and education programs and distribution of sales tax proceeds.	In accordance with County Council request and year end cycle
GAB to conduct an evaluation of the rural and urban grant application process and criteria after the first round of funding and file a report with County Council	Greenbelt Advisory Board with assistance from Greenbelt Bank, PRC and County Staff	GAB should contact grant recipients to discuss process of filing rural and urban grants, recommend changes to Greenbelt grants program.	At conclusion of first round of rural and urban grants program
Pursue acquisition projects in all of the Greenbelt Component landscapes	Charleston County Council with advice and guidance from Greenbelt Bank and PRC	County needs to step up its partnerships with local land trusts and municipalities. PRC is already in process of acquisitions.	Continuous process



TASKS	LEAD AGENCY AND SUPPORT GROUPS	DETAILS	RESOURCES TO COMPLETE TASK
MID-TERM STRATEGIES (FY09-11)			
Define and adopt annual work program within the County for the Greenbelts Program	Charleston County Administrator	Planning Staff can work with Greenbelts Bank and PRC to define specific work program.	Adopt with annual County Budget cycle
Continue operation of the rural and urban grants program.	Greenbelt Bank and PRC with assistance from GAB and County staff	Continue to provide organizations, local governments and citizens with details of how to apply for grants.	Calls should be issued at beginning of each year.
County Greenbelt Bank and GAB to report annually to County Council the activities of the Greenbelt Program	Greenbelt Advisory Board, Greenbelt Bank with assistance from County staff	Should feature the rural and urban grants programs, partnership activities, promotion and education programs and distribution of sales tax proceeds.	In accordance with County Council request and year end cycle
GAB to conduct an evaluation of the rural and urban grant application process and criteria after the first round of funding and file a report with County Council	Greenbelt Advisory Board with assistance from Greenbelt Bank, PRC and County Staff	GAB should contact grant recipients to discuss process of filing rural and urban grants, recommend changes to Greenbelt grants program.	At conclusion of first round of rural and urban grants program
By 2011, the entire Greenbelts Plan should undergo a thorough review and evaluation to ensure that it is up to date.	GAB, Greenbelt Bank and County Staff	This is in accordance with County policy regarding evaluation and updating the Comprehensive Plan.	Begin in 2011
Pursue acquisition projects in all of the Greenbelt Component landscapes	Charleston County Council with advice and guidance from Greenbelt Bank and PRC	County needs to step up its partnerships with local land trusts and municipalities. PRC is already in process of acquisitions.	Continuous process
LONG TERM STRATEGIES (FY12-16)			
Define and adopt annual work program within the County for the Greenbelts Program	Charleston County Administrator	Planning Staff can work with Greenbelts Bank and PRC to define specifics of this program.	Adopt with annual County Budget cycle
Based on updated Plan of 2011, continue operation of the rural and urban grants program.	Greenbelt Bank and PRC with assistance from GAB and County staff	Continue to provide organizations, local governments and citizens with details of how to apply for grants.	Calls should be issued at beginning of each year.
County Greenbelt Bank and GAB to report annually to County Council the activities of the Greenbelt Program	Greenbelt Advisory Board, Greenbelt Bank with assistance from County staff	Should feature the rural and urban grants programs, partnership activities, promotion and education programs and distribution of sales tax proceeds.	In accordance with County Council request and year end cycle

5.8 Conclusion

The Greenbelt Advisory Board worked for twelve months to craft the vision, goals, objectives and recommendations within this Plan. The process for preparing this Plan has been open and inclusive. The GAB acted decisively throughout this period of time to define the term “Greenbelt,” determine which Greenbelt resources should be protected and how they would be protected.

The GAB defined a comprehensive system of greenspace that addresses the short-term and long-term needs of the County. The GAB also determined how Greenbelt funding should be allocated to protect and conserve greenspace in rural and urban areas of the County in a manner that will benefit all residents. The GAB recommends that County Council place a referendum on the November 6, 2006 ballot requesting voter approval to

issue bonds that will provide the financial support necessary to implement the recommendations of this plan. The GAB has crafted an implementation strategy that will enable landowners, organizations and municipalities to access Greenbelt funds, through rural and urban grants, to conserve and protect Greenbelt resources.

The Greenbelt Advisory Board recommends that this Comprehensive Greenbelt Plan be formally adopted by Charleston County Council as an element of the County Comprehensive Plan. The GAB also recommends that this Plan be revisited and reviewed by Charleston County periodically to ensure that the vision, goals and objectives are being implemented. Finally, the GAB recommends that a full update of the plan would occur beginning in FY 2010 and completed no later than FY 2011.



