



## Charleston County News Release

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See Reports Online: <http://www.smallchangeforbigchange.org/reports.html>

## 2009 Greenbelt Annual Reports Available for Citizens

*Citizens can go online to see reports and pictures of land preserved using Transportation Sales Tax funds*

Annual reports highlighting the urban and rural greenbelt projects that were funded during 2009 have been produced and provided to [Charleston County Council](#). The reports, which include a map of all greenbelt projects approved to date, are available online so the public can see how [Transportation Sales Tax](#) funds were used to protect green space throughout the year.

### Urban Grants Program

During 2009, the [Urban Grants Review Committee](#) and the [Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission](#) (PRC) reviewed seven applications that were submitted to the Urban Grants Program. These projects were approved by Council in the amount of \$825,594 toward the purchase of 33 acres, bringing the total urban green space preserved to 470 acres.

### Rural Grants Program

The [Charleston County Greenbelt Bank Board](#) reviewed 23 rural greenbelt projects totaling \$19.3 million to protect 6,511 acres. Charleston County Council approved the rural funding to protect the properties through a combination of fee simple purchases and conservation easements. A total of 14,463 acres have been protected through the Rural Grants Program since its inception in 2007.

Nearly 17,000 acres have been protected so far with Transportation Sales Tax funds through the Urban Grants Program, the Rural Grants Program and the PRC's portion of the greenbelt funds.

The [Comprehensive Greenbelt Plan](#) set a goal to protect 40,000 acres through six greenbelt system components: rural lands; the Francis Marion National Forest; Lowcountry wetlands; urban lands; PRC parklands; and greenway corridors. To date, the lands protected have contributed the following toward these goals:

- 6,738 acres of rural greenbelt lands (41 percent of the goal of 16,240 acres)
- 3,270 acres in the Francis Marion Forest (32 percent of the goal of 10,275 acres)
- 4,737 acres of wetlands (84 percent of the goal of 5,610 acres)
- 182 acres of urban greenbelt lands (nine percent of the goal of 2,000 acres)
- Five acres of corridors (less than one percent of the goal of 1,200 acres)
- 2,918 acres for PRC parklands (62 percent of the goal of 4,675 acres)

### **SIDEBAR**

- Greenbelt funds can be used for the acquisition of land and/or purchase of development rights.
- Projects funded through the Urban Grants Program must occur in the urban area of Charleston County, defined by the County's [Comprehensive Plan](#) as the municipalities and unincorporated areas that are located inside the Charleston County Urban Suburban Growth Boundary. These areas include:
  - [City of Charleston](#)
  - [City of Folly Beach](#)
  - [City of Isle of Palms](#)
  - [Town of James Island](#)
  - [Town of Kiawah Island](#)
  - [Town of Lincolnville](#)
  - [Town of Mount Pleasant](#)

- [City of North Charleston](#)
- [Town of Seabrook Island](#)
- [Town of Sullivan's Island](#)
- And portions of Johns Island, West Ashley and East Cooper areas
- Projects funded through the Rural Grants Program must occur in the rural area of Charleston County, defined by the County's [Comprehensive Plan](#) as the municipalities and unincorporated areas that are located outside the Charleston County Urban Suburban Growth Boundary. These areas include:
  - Edisto Island
  - Portions of Johns Island, West of the Ashley and the East Cooper area
  - St. Paul's area
  - [Town of Awendaw](#)
  - [Town of Hollywood](#)
  - [Town of Meggett](#)
  - [Town of Ravenel](#)
  - [Town of Rockville](#)
  - [Town of McClellanville](#)
  - Wadmalaw Island
  - West St. Andrews area West of the Ashley

For more information on the Charleston County Greenbelt Program and to see pictures of the urban and rural greenbelt projects, visit [www.smallchangeformbigchange.org](http://www.smallchangeformbigchange.org).