



## Charleston County News Release

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See map and photos of projects: <http://www.charlestoncounty.org/newsimages/willtown.htm>

### County Takes On Large-Scale Projects in Small Willtown Community

*Projects in Parkers Ferry area include preserving greenspace, adding sidewalks, paving roads and improving drainage*

[Charleston County Government](#) has completed significant enhancements to the infrastructure of the Willtown Community in Parkers Ferry, and more improvements are on the way. In a multi-departmental effort using various funding sources, the County has funded the community's purchase of greenspace, constructed a 5,600-foot sidewalk, paved roads and improved drainage in the rural, southern end of Charleston County.

"These changes are monumental for the Willtown Community, which is a historic, minority community," said [Charleston County Councilmember Anna B. Johnson](#). "The projects depict the care and concern County Government has for all citizens, including those in rural communities, as well as my desire and the County staff's ability to deliver timely, cost effective, environmentally conscious and culturally sensitive transportation and drainage systems improvements. Providing for public recreation opportunities and parks as well as open spaces helps to preserve the natural and cultural history of the community."

#### **Details on the completed projects are:**

- **Greenbelt funds preserve 21 acres**
  - The Willtown Improvement Organization was awarded \$213,000 in rural [Greenbelt](#) funds to purchase the 21-acre tract of land located at the corner of Parkers Ferry Road and Old Jacksonboro Road. The property was purchased by the organization in April 2011.
  - The primary use of the property will be for public recreation and open space. Deed restrictions limit the property's use to passive park uses such as picnic areas, trails and open spaces for community events. There is also a deed restriction limiting the impervious surfaces to 2% of the total land.
  - The Greenbelt Program's Rural Grants Program is administered by the [Charleston County Greenbelt Bank Board](#) who reviews applications and makes funding recommendations to [Charleston County Council](#) for final approval.
- **Willtown Community sidewalk constructed**
  - With funding from the [Charleston County Transportation Sales Tax Program](#), a 5,600-foot sidewalk was constructed along Parkers Ferry Road linking numerous homes to churches, the community center and the greenbelt property described above.
  - The project extends from Old Jacksonboro Road to Penny Creek Road, and from Anderson Road to Sam Simmons Road.
  - The project also included the installation of nearly 4,000 feet of concrete pipe to allow drainage of the area.
  - County staff is working with the S.C. Department of Transportation on a second phase of the sidewalk to find a solution to connect the sidewalk across a small tributary creek, while minimizing impacts to this environmentally-sensitive area.
- **Campbell Plantation Road updated with recycled material**
  - Campbell Plantation Road is a non-standard County road (a class of roads formerly known as community roads, which are being brought into the County's maintenance system as approved by

Charleston County Council) in the community. Because of the road's dirt surface, it previously required regular maintenance to keep it passable by the residents.

- With funding from the [Charleston County Transportation Sales Tax Program](#), the 900-foot road was improved by adding six inches of compacted, crushed concrete as a driving surface.
  - Not only is the installation of this recycled material environmentally-friendly, it reduces maintenance costs and provides a solid foundation for the road, which is necessary for future asphalt paving currently being planned.
- **Parkers Ferry drainage improved**
    - [Charleston County Public Works Department](#)'s Operations Division cleaned approximately 2,000 feet of a drainage canal that runs parallel to Penny Creek Road.
    - The County also removed obstructions that restricted water flow.
    - With funding from the [Charleston County Transportation Sales Tax Program](#), plans are being developed to permit and construct an extension of the canal to continue to improve drainage in the area.
  - **Pavement preserved on over 15 miles of road**
    - With funding from state "C" Fund, or gas tax dollars, delegated by the [Charleston County Transportation Committee](#), over 15 miles of paved roads in the area have been resurfaced to extend the life of the pavement.
    - The roads, which were in need of maintenance, were overlaid using a pavement preservation technology known as micro surfacing. When applied at the appropriate time, micro surfacing and other pavement preservation techniques significantly reduce the life cycle cost to maintain paved roads.
    - For more information on the County's pavement preservations program visit <http://www.charlestonctc.org/pavementmanagement.htm>.

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