



News Release

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County Greenbelt program to provide funding for purchase and protection of more than 600 acres for park site

County Council approves project that will help fund new County Park at Spring Grove/East Edisto area

[Charleston County Council](#) approved a [Greenbelt](#) project on Tuesday, Jan. 26 that will provide funding for the purchase and protection of 638 acres in the southern area of Charleston County. The Spring Grove Rural Greenbelt project will provide funding to the [Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission's \(CCPRC\)](#) proposed plan for a Spring Grove County Park.

The property is located on U.S. Highway 17 South between the Town of Ravenel and the Adams Run community. The more than 600 acres will be used as a County public park providing outdoor activities such as walking, hiking, biking and bird watching trails and will be managed by the CCPRC.

"Hundreds of years from now, I am not sure any of us can visualize the effects that population growth will have on this region. The citizens at that time will be able to benefit from the foresight and assertive nature that the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission, working with the Greenbelt Board and County Council, had to preserve these important spaces for future generations," said Tom O'Rourke, Executive Director of the Charleston County Park & Recreation Commission.

Council approved the project for the amount of \$2,087,000. The project was originally priced at \$2,567,000 but was reduced by about half a million dollars because Ducks Unlimited received \$478,000 from the State Conservation Bank toward the purchase of a conservation easement on the property and WestRock (formerly known as Mead WestVaco) paid for the survey costs.

"This is one of the last Greenbelt projects and we are proud to have worked with the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission in order to protect this important property, the gateway to the Ace Basin while also providing public access," said Greenbelt Bank Board Chairman Hugh Lane.

The Greenbelt program is funded by the Transportation Sales Tax, which was approved in a county-wide referendum on Nov. 2, 2004. The program has protected more than 20,000 acres of rural and urban land so far. Other important facts and figures:

- Total acres protected to date: 20,535 (16,736 in the rural area, 790 in the urban area)
- Total funds awarded to date: \$94 million (\$67 million for rural projects; \$27 million for urban projects)
- \$76 million (81% of funds) was awarded to purchase 5,700 acres for public parks and green spaces
- The Urban Greenbelt Program has \$1.7 million remaining for Greenbelt projects

For more information about the Greenbelt program and its projects and properties, visit the website at www.charlestoncountygreenbelt.org.

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- Visit our website: www.charlestoncounty.org



