



A TRANSPORTATION SALES TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE CITY OF HARDEEVILLE IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

Watch Live via YouTube at:

<http://www.youtube.com/@jcmedia6537>

Instructions may also be found at the Jasper County website

www.jaspercountysc.gov

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (843) 717-3696



JASPER COUNTY
2024 Transportation Sales Tax Advisory
Committee Meeting
City of Hardeeville – Council Chambers
205 Main Street Hardeeville, SC 29927
Friday, May 30, 2025
AGENDA

9:00AM

AGENDA

- Call to Order
- Chairman John Kemp – Welcome and Comments
- Kate Schaefer – Greenbelt Program: Next Steps
- General Discussion
- Set Date and Time for Next Meeting
- Adjourn

In accordance with South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80(d), as amended, notification of the meeting was posted on the County Council Building at a publicly accessible place and on the county website at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. A copy of the agenda was given to the local news media and posted at the meeting location twenty-four hours prior to the meeting.

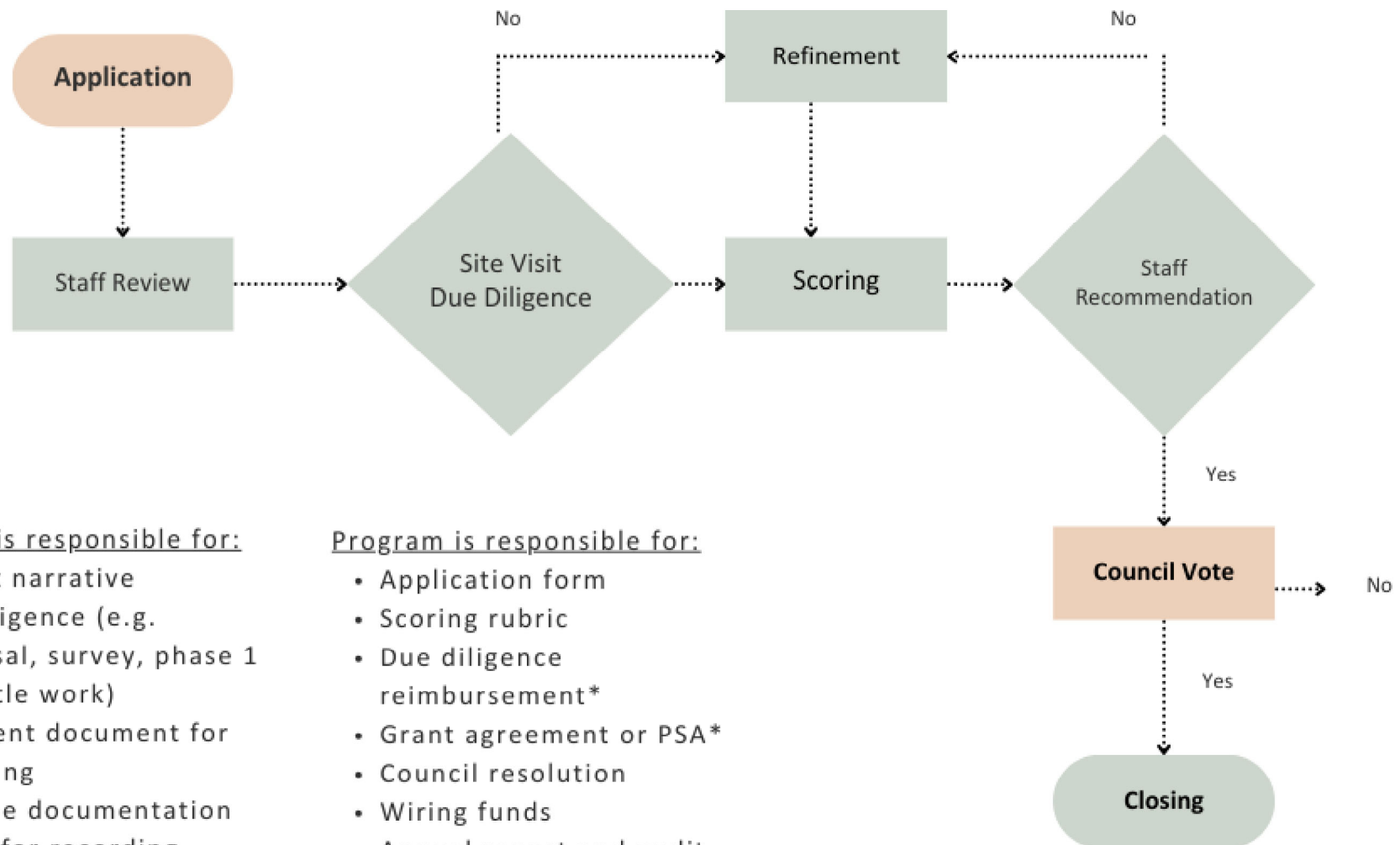
Special Accommodations Available Upon Request to Individuals with Disabilities, please contact the Jasper County ADA & Civil Rights Coordinator, ***Tisha Williams*** by telephone at ***(843) 717-3690*** or via email at ***jcadministrator@jaspercountysc.gov*** no later than 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

Jasper County Greenbelt Committee

Committee Meeting May 30 2025

9am Hardeeville City Hall

GREENBELT PROGRAM FLOWCHART



WHAT IS A CONSERVATION EASEMENT?

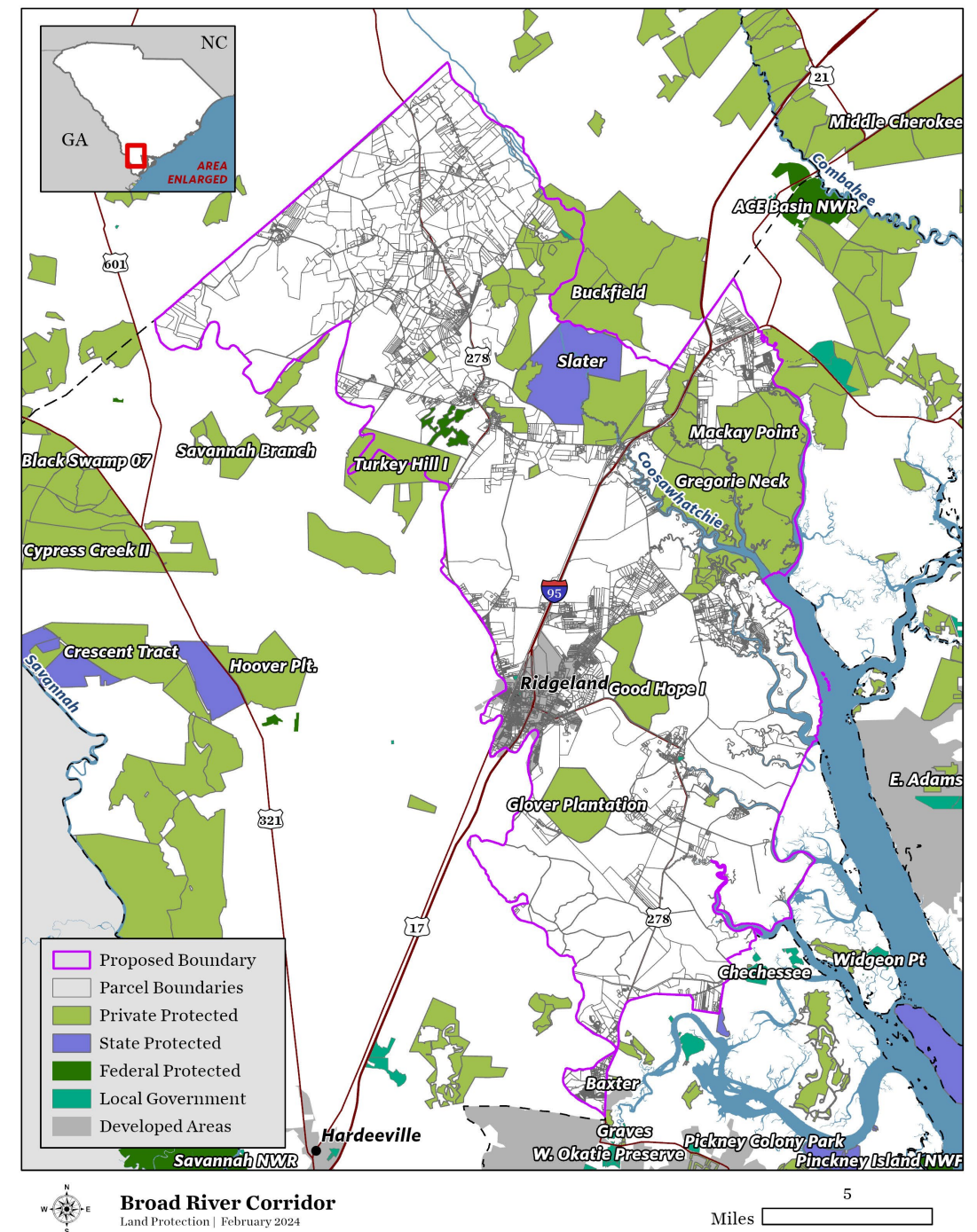
Conservation Easements are:

- voluntary
- permanent
- legally binding agreements between a landowner and a qualified holding organization (land trust)
- recorded at the Register of Deeds Office

Property can be **privately** or **publicly** owned. In either case, the conservation easement limits development or some uses of the property to protect the natural resources — *sometimes called conservation values* — of the property.

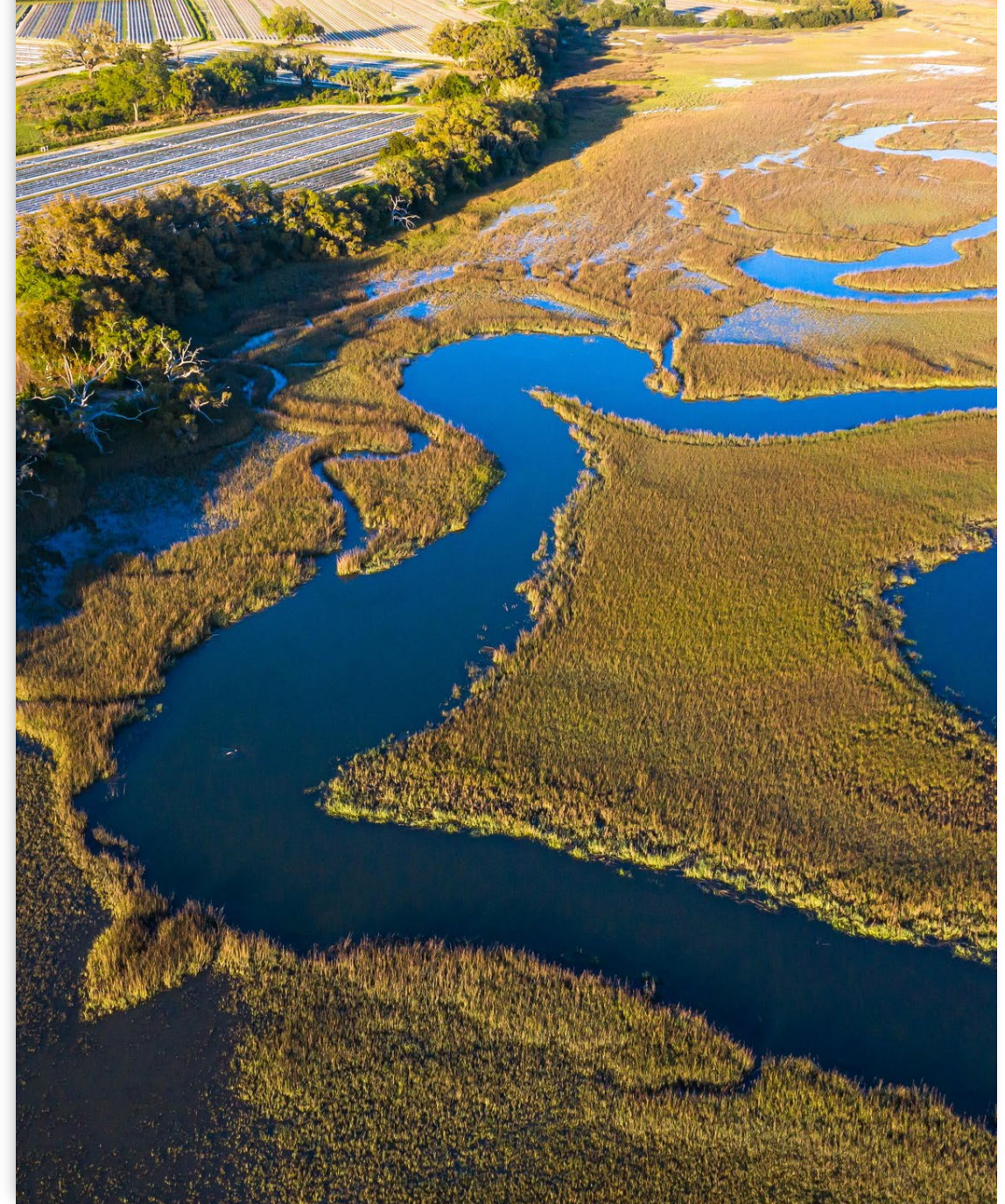
Protecting these resources (e.g. water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, scenic value, open space, and farmland) benefits not only the private landowner, but the public as well.

Each conservation easement is unique: matched to the property, with terms that reflect a balance between protecting the land and the objectives of the landowners.



BENEFITS FOR A LANDOWNER

- **Peace of mind** knowing the land will remain protected forever. Conservation Easements remain in force even after the land has changed ownership.
- **Possible direct financial compensation** from grants (local, state, federal, private) as applicable
- **Possible tax reductions** in local property taxes (the property's assessed value may be reduced by the CE since it restricts the property's development value)..
- **Possible tax deductions:** The donation of a conservation easement may qualify as a charitable contribution, allowing the donor to take a federal income tax deduction for the value of the contribution. The Internal Revenue Code 170 outlines requirements to qualify for a tax deduction.



St Helena Island, Beaufort County

PERMITTED RIGHTS

- Every easement document outlines the basic rights the landowner of the conserved property **still keeps**. Examples:
 - the right to build homes, barns, sheds;
 - **right to grow and sell timber**,
 - right to grow and sell crops,
 - right to recreate and **manage for fishing and hunting, and outdoor enjoyment**



Nemours Wildlife Foundation, Beaufort County

RESTRICTED RIGHTS

- Every easement document outlines the basic rights the landowner of the conserved property **gives up**.
 - Examples: **right to sell sand/dirt**, right to commercial uses like storefronts, rights to develop industrial uses.

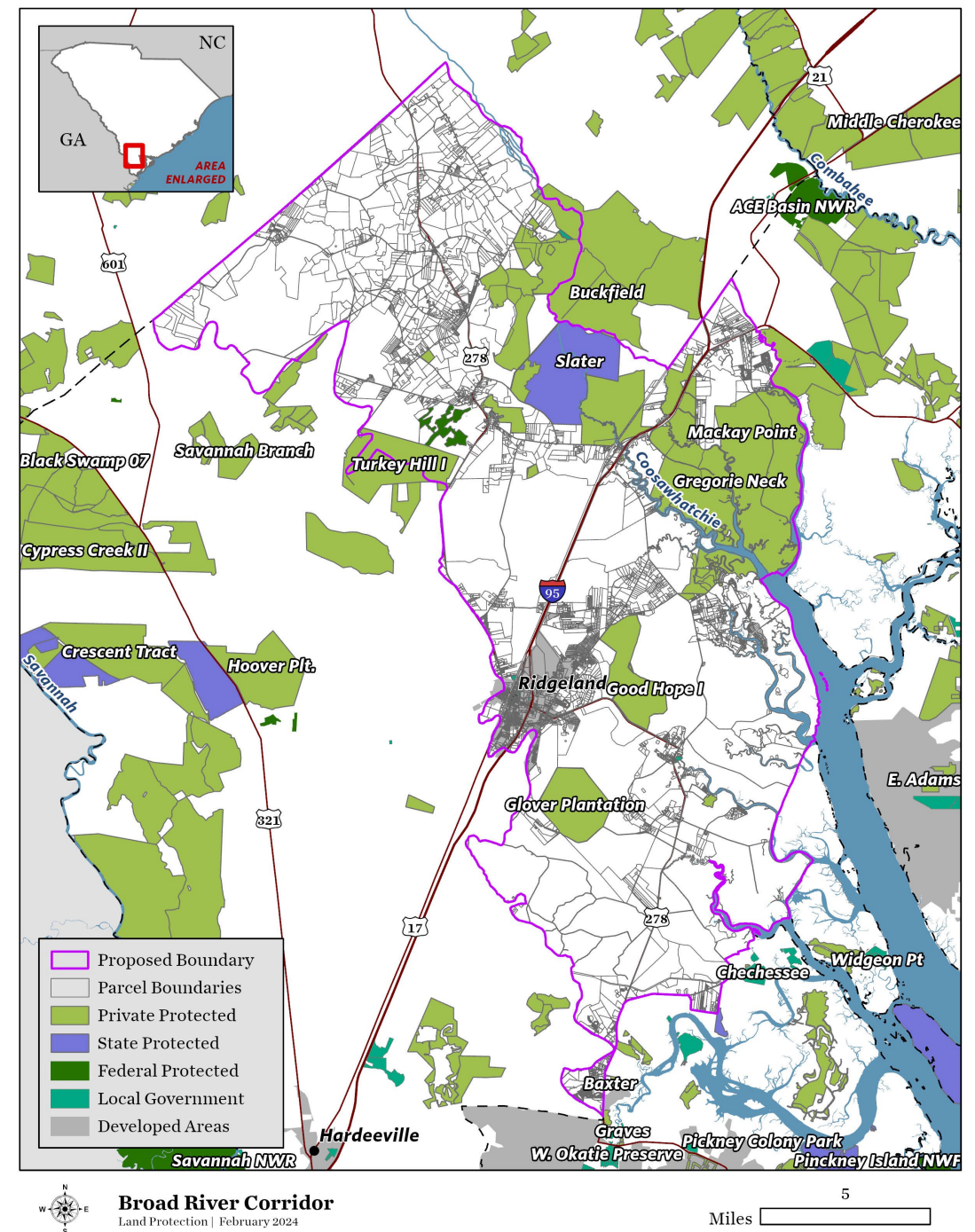


ANNUAL EASEMENT MONITORING

- Once the easement is recorded, the land trust is legally responsible for ensuring your property's conservation values are protected forever. This is called **Stewardship**.
 - This means they must monitor and enforce the standards in the conservation easement but also so much more – land trusts also provide resources and support to the conservation landowner to ensure that the conservation values of the property continue to exist grow over time.
 - Properties are monitored once a year
 - Reports are generated to document any issues observed, changes to the property and/or boundary encroachments and to establish an ongoing record of the property's condition and use over time.

SIMPLIFIED EASEMENT PROCESS

1. Interested landowner
2. Site Visit with Land Trust
3. Easement terms mapped out
4. Appraisal
5. Grant applications and/or tax advice
6. Final easement recorded
7. Stewardship – forever.



LOCAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT EXAMPLES

Glover Plantation

- Protected in 2012
- 2,026.64 acres
- Ducks Unlimited
- Grant award: \$405,328



SOUTH CAROLINA
CONSERVATION
BANK



Huguenin Family (Roseland)

- Protected 2002-2023
- 958 Acres
- Lowcountry Land Trust
- Donated easement



LOCAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT EXAMPLES

Good Hope

- Protected in 2008
- 2,000 acres
- Lowcountry Land Trust
- Donated



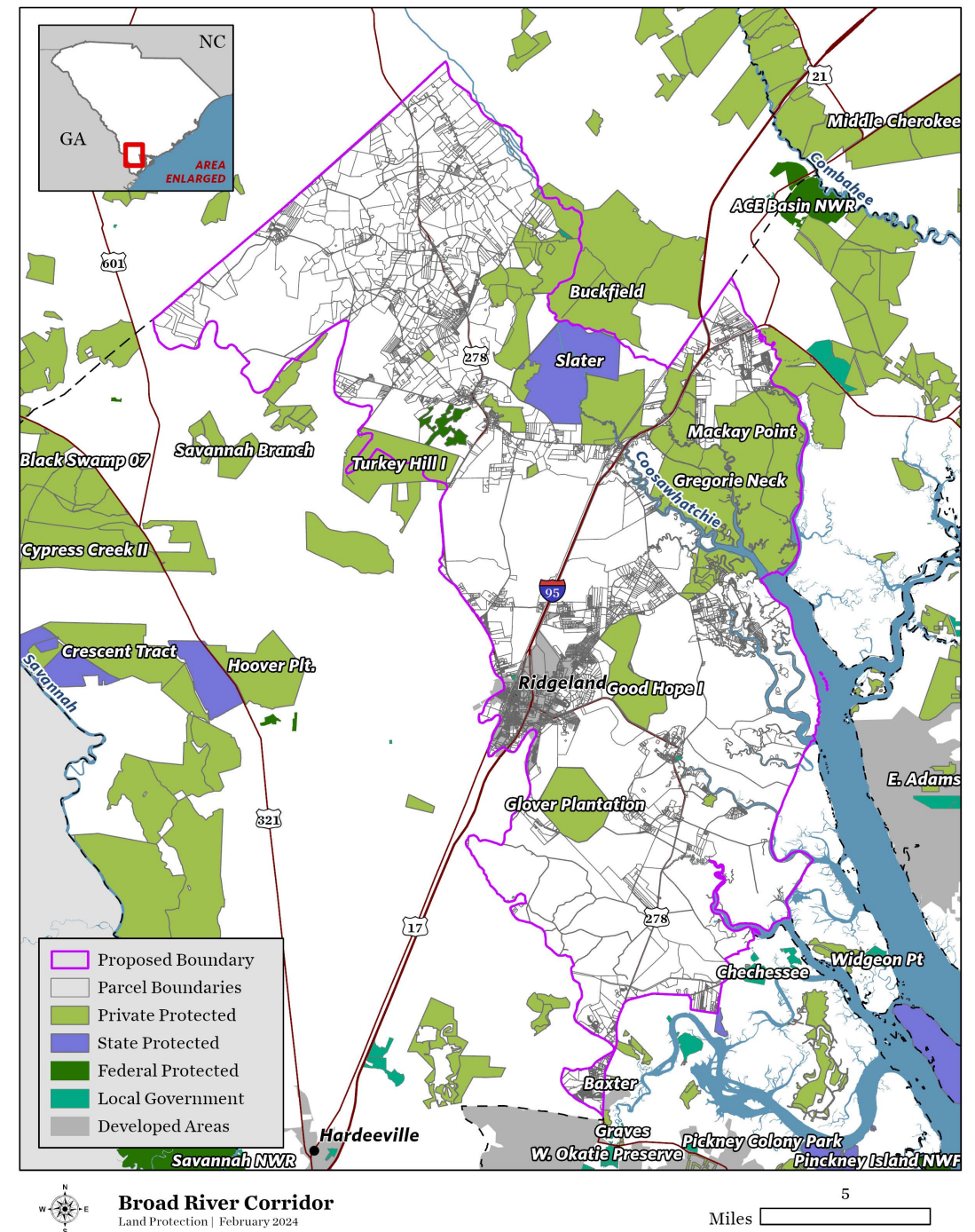
Gregorie Neck

- Protected 2024
- 4,409 Acres
- Open Land Trust
- Grant Award: \$9 million



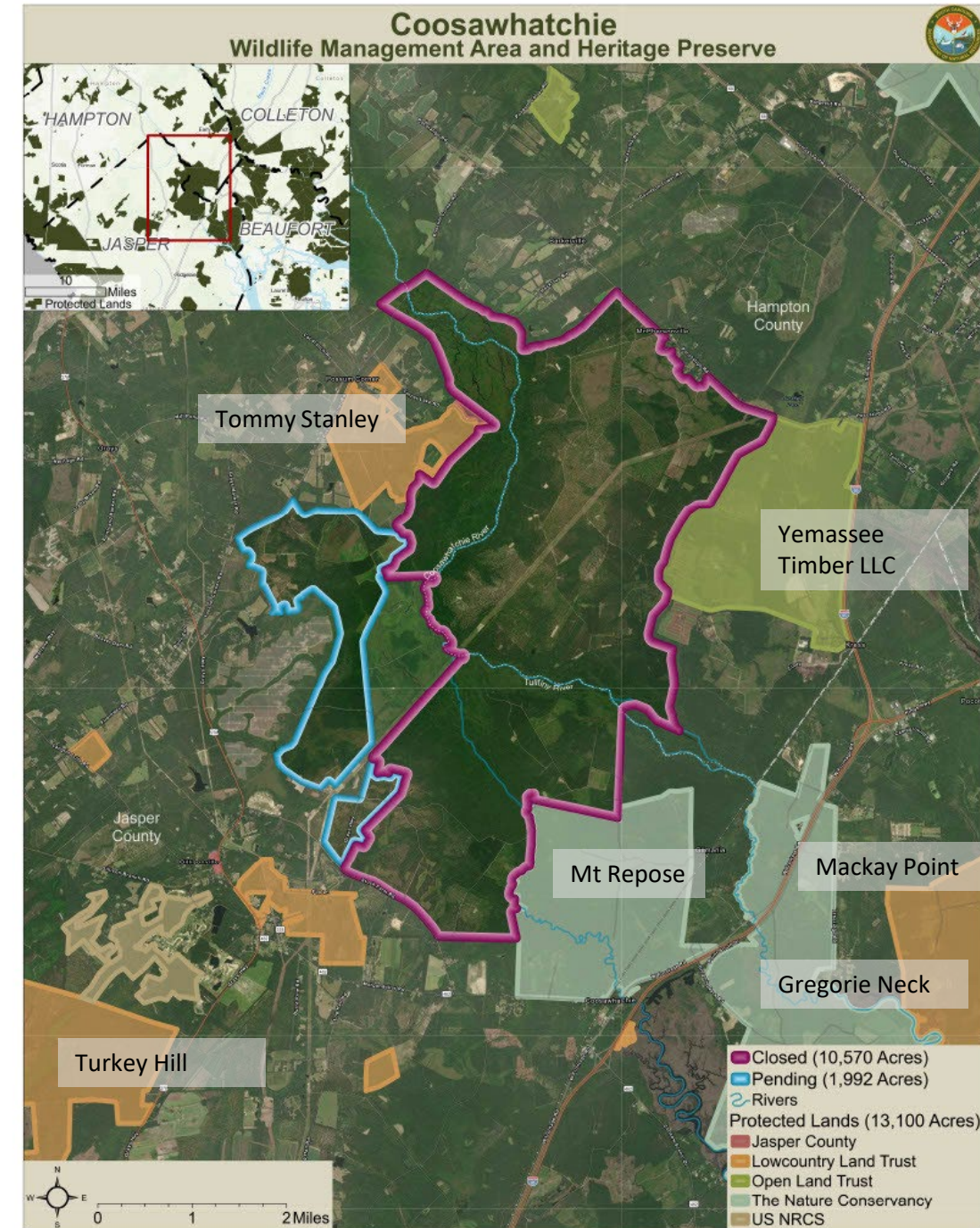
SIMPLIFIED FEE PROCESS

1. Interested landowner
2. Site Visit with Buyer
3. Appraisal + Due Diligence
4. **Grant applications + partner funding secured**
5. Fee purchase
6. Stewardship – forever.



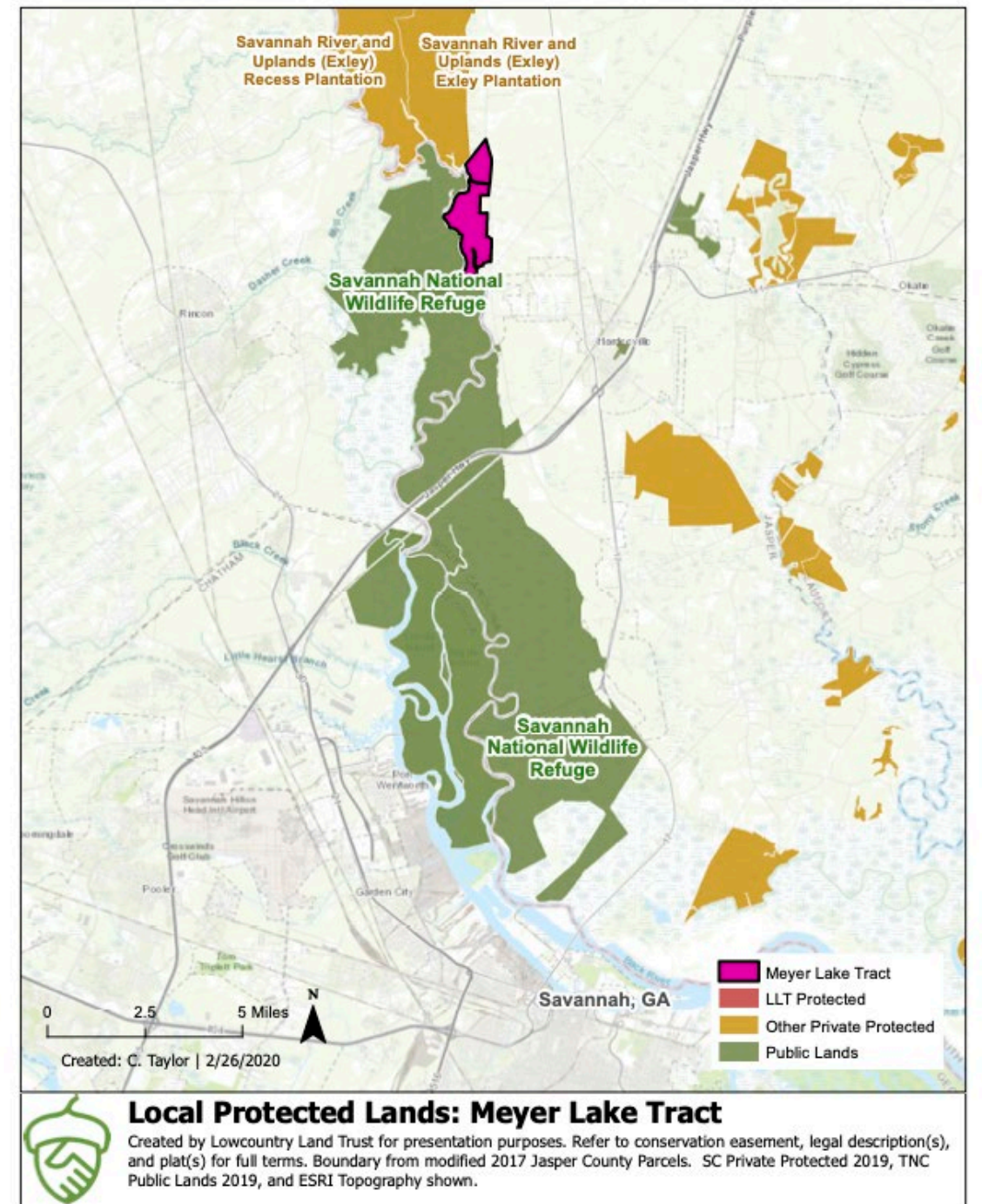
COOSAWHATCHIE WMA

- Purchased by SCDNR in 2023-2024
- Opened to the Public Sept 1 2024
- 10,570 acres
- Grant Awards: \$50m total; \$32.5m (state)



MEYER LAKE

- Purchased by SCDNR in 2024
- Not yet open to the public
- 972 acres
- Grant Awards: \$3.4m



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Open Land Trust: www.openlandtrust.org
- SC Land Trust Network: www.scltn.org
- SC Conservation Bank: www.sccbank.sc.gov
- Land Trust Alliance: www.landtrustalliance.org/



New River, Jasper County

ORDINANCE 2025/XX

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE JASPER COUNTY GREENBELT PROGRAM SUBJECT TO A REFERENDUM WITHIN JASPER COUNTY (or similarly titled)

WHEREAS, the Jasper County Council recognizes the need to protect natural resources, protect agricultural or heritage landscapes, and protect scenic corridors by purchasing property for conservation, purchasing conservation easements, creating passive greenspace, creating active greenspace and conserving land which is deemed essential to the County's quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Jasper County is experiencing rapid land development and economic growth which has benefited the county's people and economy, but has also led to the loss of forestlands, farmlands, wildlife habitats, outstanding natural areas, and public areas for outdoor recreation; and has impacted the health of streams, rivers, wetlands, estuaries, and bays, all of which impacts the quality of life of the County's current and future citizens and may jeopardize the well-being of the County's environment and economy if not addressed appropriately.

WHEREAS, Protected lands provide natural absorption of storm and rainwater; protecting greenspace helps keep pollution out of our rivers, lakes and streams and protect the quality of our drinking water supplies; and

WHEREAS, the Jasper County Council has, by Ordinance XX/YY provided for the imposition of a one percent (1%) sales and use tax pursuant to SC Code of Laws Title 4, Chapter 37 Section 30, approved by Jasper County voters on November 5, 2024; and

WHEREAS, on November 18, 2024, Jasper County Council passed Resolution #R-2024-41 of the Jasper County Council Declaring Results of the Referendum on Transportation Sales and Use Tax, establishing funding for transportation projects and greenbelts; and

WHEREAS, by the adoption of this ordinance County Council undertakes to set forth a description of the methods by which Council intends to procure greenbelts for conservation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF JASPER COUNTY AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. TITLE

This article shall be known as the "Jasper County Greenbelt Program Ordinance."

SECTION 2. PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this ordinance to:

Menu of options:

Provide a means by which lands may be protected as economic and environmental resources of major importance.

Encourage landowners to make a voluntary long-term commitment to conservation by offering landowners financial incentives and security of land use.

Preserve open space; protect critical and natural resources; and/or provide land for recreation.

Leverage federal, state, local, and private conservation efforts;

Provide a means whereby rural landowners can maintain and preserve the rural character of their land through land conservation;

Provide compensation to landowners in exchange for relinquishment, in part or in whole, of their

- right to develop their private property;
- Reduce and defer the need for major public infrastructure improvements in the county when the expenditure of public funds is the requirement for such improvements.
- Provide for the purchase of fee simple interests in lands deemed critical to provide for the protection of natural resources, creation of passive greenspace, creation of active greenspace, protection of agricultural or heritage landscapes, and scenic corridors;
- Provide for conservation easements and fee simple procurement in lands threatened by development, which if it occurs will have detrimental effects on land use patterns, traffic, public safety, stormwater runoff, water quality or other conservation objectives.
- Provide for conservation of rurlands, which provide protection of natural resources and stability of agricultural, timber, and other open space uses.
- Protect and preserve watersheds including the lower Savannah River and Port Royal Sound watersheds;
- Encourage cooperation and innovative partnerships among landowners, state agencies, municipalities, and nonprofit organizations, which must work together in order to meet these objectives;

SECTION 3 – DEFINITIONS:

Provided for your review

***If applicable* SECTION 4. GREENBELT BANK FUND ESTABLISHED¹.**

The Jasper County Treasurer shall establish an account separate and distinct from all other funds appropriated by county council, called the Jasper County Greenbelt Bank Fund. The Jasper County Greenbelt Bank Fund may receive revenues annually from the proceeds of the sales tax as approved by voters on November 5, 2024, and other revenues or funding sources as authorized and appropriated by Charleston County Council. Revenues from the sales tax are restricted solely for financing the cost of greenbelts.

The bank may not hold or possess any interest in land or other interest in real property².

SECTION 5: TYPES OF PROCUREMENTS

Preservation procurements are defined and include:

- A. The acquisition of fee simple titles;
- B. Conservation easements in perpetuity,
- C. perpetual easements for portions of heritage/scenic corridors and boat landings

***If applicable* SECTION 6. GREENBELT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP, TERMS, ORGANIZATION**

To facilitate preservation procurement purchases Council establishes the following Committee, sets forth the terms of membership and its organization:

County Council shall appoint ##-member Committee as follows:

Menu of options:

- A. one member who is a member of the County Council;
- B. one member who is knowledgeable about the geography and condition of Jasper County's

¹ Charleston County establishes a fund. I don't know if Jasper needs this.

² As required in Charleston County and the SC Conservation Bank

landscape and natural resources;

- C. ## citizen members with relevant experience and qualifications in matters such as estate law, finance, rural land ownership, agriculture, or conservation.

Terms of committee members are for four years and until their successors are appointed and qualify, except that the initial terms of the members must be staggered with the initial term noted on the appointment.

The committee is a public body, and its members are subject to the South Carolina Ethics Act, as amended, and must perform their duties in accordance with its provisions.

The committee must conduct its business in accordance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

The committee must recuse themselves from any vote in which they have a conflict of interest including, but not limited to, any vote affecting or providing funding for the acquisition of interests in land³:

- A. on land owned or controlled by the board member, the board member's immediate family, or an entity the board member represents, works for, or in which the member has a voting or ownership interest;
- B. on land contiguous to land described in item (1) of this subsection; and
- C. by an eligible trust fund recipient that the board member represents, works for, or in which the member has a voting or ownership interest.

***If Applicable* SECTION 7. GREENBELT ADVISORY COMMITTEE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The duties and responsibilities of the Green Belt Advisory Committee are to:

- A. Review and recommend to County Council interests in land to be acquired based on the adopted program criteria and scoring system;
- B. Review program operations including the application process that includes a measurable scoring system based on adopted program criteria.
- C. Submit to South Carolina Department of Revenue, Council approved program criteria and application process for acknowledgement.
- D. Perform such other duties as may be assigned by County Council.

SECTION 8. PROCUREMENT TYPES AND MINIMUM APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.

The Jasper County Greenbelt Program (JCGP) will focus its efforts on the following conservation procurement types: purchasing property fee simple and/or purchasing conservation easements each to future the goals of creating passive greenspace, creating active greenspace, protecting natural resources, protecting agricultural or heritage landscapes, and protecting scenic corridors⁴.

Applications from eligible applicants will be reviewed by **staff** for completeness, including a review of provided due diligence and recommendation of final procurement. Jasper County qualifies as an applicant. The minimum application requirements for procurements within Jasper County are as follows:

³ Verbatim from SC Conservation Bank

⁴ Verbatim from referendum

- A. Applications for conservation easement procurements *shall require a minimum 25% match.*
- B. Applications for fee simple county owned procurements *shall require public access/use and may require a match.*
- C. Applications for fee simple "other government" owned procurements *may require public access/use and may require a match.*

Where an eligible applicant⁵ seeks a JCGP grant to acquire fee title to land, it must demonstrate both the expertise and financial resources to manage the land for the purposes set forth in its application. Where an eligible applicant seeks a JCGP fund grant to acquire a conservation easement, it must demonstrate both the expertise and financial resources to manage and enforce the restrictions placed upon the land for the purposes set forth in its application.

An application must not be submitted to the board without the written consent of the owner of the interest in land identified.

Further description of fee simple or easements can be provided here. See examples⁶:

Conservation easements will typically be purchased in areas designated "rural land", although there may be instances where Conservation easements may be appropriate for purchase in other zoning designations. Generally, one or more of the following apply:

- a. There are conservation values in or on the property to be preserved.
- b. Development of the property would result in adverse impacts to the environment or public infrastructure serving the property.
- c. The character of the property and its surrounding area would be threatened by proposed or possible future development.
- d. The owner wishes to retain ownership of the property.
- e. Public access to the property is not required or desirable.

Fee simple interests shall be applicable in all areas of the county, including those designated as "rural land". Generally, properties considered for fee purchase are those where the property owner(s) are willing to sell in those instances where one or more of the following apply:

- a. There are conservation values in or on the property to be acquired and the owner is only willing to sell all of their interest in the property.
- b. Public access to the property is required or desirable.
- c. Development of the property for public access, active recreation and/or passive recreation use is desirable.
- d. Development of the property would result in adverse impacts to the environment or public infrastructure serving the property.

SECTION 9. APPLICATION PROCESS AND DEADLINES

- A. The Greenbelt Committee (GC) will process applications from eligible applicants on a quarterly cycle. The quarterly application deadlines are as follows:
 - a. January 31

⁵ Borrowed from Charleston County

⁶ Modified from Beaufort County Rural and Critical Land Preservation Program

- b. April 30
- c. July 31
- d. October 31

- B. Once an application cycle has closed, Jasper County staff will have *10 days* to determine if the submitted application is complete. If the application is not complete, the applicant will have *10 days* to provide the additional information to be considered for that application cycle. The GC will meet to consider complete applications *no later than 45 days* after each quarterly deadline.

Policy Questions: who reviews for completeness (staff or contractor?) and how is completeness defined? Will due diligence be required at the time of application or before closing? Do you want committee review after each quarterly deadline?

- C. The GC reserves the right to amend the quarterly deadlines at the beginning of each year to best meet the requirements of the program, however, it shall remain a quarterly application cycle.

Policy Questions: Is this the role of County Council? The Greenbelt Committee?

- D. Upon written support of both the Chair and Vice Chair of the Greenbelt Committee, or a majority of the Committee, an application can be submitted and reviewed outside of the quarterly cycle, however, this shall only be considered in instances where "time is of the extreme essence" and documented as such.

SECTION 10. REQUIRED APPLICATION TYPES, COMPONENTS, AND MEASUREMENT SCORING SYSTEM.

- A. Each procurement type shall have its own application and scoring rubric as deemed appropriate by staff. The GC shall approve each application type and publish them for applicants. Applications shall consist of a combination of questions and requested information to adequately score and rank using a systematic measurable approach. To accomplish this, all application types shall consist of the following components:
 - a. numerical values from defined conservation and financial criteria for each application. The benefits and associated numerical values will be established by the GC.
 - b. The narrative provided by the applicant.
 - c. consistency with relevant overarching master plans (e.g., Comprehensive Plans, State Wildlife Action Plan, Natural Resources plan, etc.) which governmental jurisdictions have adopted.
- B. These components shall remain intact unless amended *by GC/County Council*.

SECTION 11. MINIMUM PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS BY APPLICATION TYPE AND/OR LOCATION.

- A. For all applications located in other governmental jurisdictions, a governmental jurisdictional letter of support or opposition shall be required at the time of application. At minimum, other governmental jurisdictions shall consider their relevant overarching master plans that have been adopted.
- B. The Greenbelt Committee will evaluate the merits of each application by evaluating conservation and financial criteria. Applications for conservation easements and fee simple procurements shall consider, at minimum, the following as a part of the application review and

consideration:

Examples follow:

- a. Public access and/or public benefit.
- b. Proximity and/or connectivity to existing protected properties.
- c. Proximity and/or connectivity to potential future protected properties.
- d. Conservation and/or expansion of intact natural habitats, agricultural and/or heritage landscapes, scenic corridors.
- e. Consistency with adopted plans including the Comprehensive Plans, existing zoning,
- f. Degree of urgency for the project in terms of protection of resources and/or real estate market.
- g. The extent to which the acquisition will result in the reduction of vehicle miles traveled and reduce the need for future roadway improvements
- h. Importance of the project in achieving multiple local, state and/or federal environmental goals and objectives.
- i. The extent to which matching funds will be available for applications.

SECTION 12. SECTION 12. METHOD OF PROGRAM AND PROCEDURES

The following procedures shall be followed in evaluating Greenbelt procurements:

- A. **County Staff** (or whomever) Receipt and Review of Applications:
 - a. Applications for participation in the JCGP shall be submitted to County staff.
 - b. County staff, upon determining completeness of the application, shall review and provide a ranking and recommendation to the GC based on the adopted program criteria and scoring rubric.
- B. Review, Recommendation, and Action to Proceed with Due Diligence and Acquisition Negotiations:
 - a. GC shall review and make recommendations whether to engage in due diligence and acquisition negotiations based upon staff scoring and recommendation.
- C. Review, Recommendation and Action to Proceed with Acquisition:
 - a. Based on the due diligence and the acquisition negotiations, **staff** shall make any necessary revisions to the original scoring and recommendation to the **GC**.
- D. The **GC** shall review and make recommendations whether to approve funding for acquisitions.
- E. **The GC** recommendations will be presented to County Council for final consideration.

SECTION 13. DUE DILIGENCE

Due diligence may be requested before the final grant to acquire the real property interest and therefore funding required for due diligence may be awarded to the applicant. If the applicant already has the required due diligence, they may request acquisition funding only.

Regardless, any project will be subject to all due diligence being satisfactorily completed, reviewed and approved. All due diligence shall be reviewed *by the appropriate county staff* before being sent to *Greenbelt Committee and County Council* for action. Due diligence shall include, but may not be limited to:

- A. An appraisal of the value of the interest being acquired prepared by a member of the appraisal institute (MAI), or other appropriately licensed or certified South Carolina Appraiser as identified by the SC Conservation Bank.
- B. A boundary survey completed by a South Carolina Registered Land Surveyor.

- C. A phase I environmental assessment by a qualified environmental consulting firm. In instances where the phase I report so indicates, a phase II environmental assessment including a plan for any remediation, by the seller or purchaser, is required for the property to address the concerns to the satisfaction of the county.
- D. A title search, title opinion, and/or title insurance commitment with only normal title exceptions.

SECTION 14. MENU OF OTHER ITEMS

- A. No interest in land acquired by an eligible applicant with greenbelt funds may be extinguished, sold, transferred, assigned, alienated, or converted to a purpose or use other than that set forth in the grant award, without securing:
 - a. A finding of fact by staff that the land no longer exhibits the characteristics that qualified it for acquisition with funds from the greenbelt fund; and
 - b. Super majority vote of the county council⁷.
- B. Funds from the greenbelt fund may not be used to acquire interests in lands or other interests in real property through the exercise of any power of eminent domain or condemnation proceeding⁸.
- C. The provisions of this article must not be construed to eliminate or unreasonably restrict hunting, fishing, farming, forestry, timber management, or wildlife-habitat management, as regulated by the laws of this state, upon lands for which interests in lands are obtained pursuant to this ordinance. These and other traditional and compatible activities may be conducted, where appropriate, upon lands preserved with greenbelt funds.
- D. In order to ensure proper planning and efficiency in projects funded through the proceeds of the sales tax, and to provide that these projects bring the greatest benefit to the county, a comprehensive greenbelts study shall be undertaken by a selected party, and a recommended plan issued to County Council, which shall include the following elements, and any other elements requested by Council, including⁹:
 - a. Feedback and priorities from local conservation and historic resource partners, stakeholders;
 - b. An inventory of potential priority greenbelt parcels in the county.
 - c. A forecast of greenbelt needs over the next 25 years in the county.
 - d. Greenbelt parcel selection criteria, with consideration given to the system employed by the South Carolina Conservation Bank.

Once completed, the comprehensive greenbelt plan should be reviewed and revised every five years.

- E. The bank and eligible applicants receiving monies from the fund shall retain all records of acquisition of interests in land with funds including, but not limited to deeds, title documents, contracts, surveys, inventories, appraisals, title insurance policies, environmental assessments, and closing documents.

SECTION 15. EFFECTIVE DATE; SEVERABILITY

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon third reading.

⁷ Recommended in Charleston and Beaufort County to help ensure fee simple projects are sold for development at a later date.

⁸ Recommended in Charleston and at the SC Conservation Bank

⁹ Modified from Charleston County, could be completed by a consultant with committee review or staff or combination

If any provision of the Ordinance or its application to any circumstance is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such holding shall not affect other provisions of this Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application. To this end, the provisions of this Ordinance are severable.

Adopted this XX of YY 2025.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF JASPER COUNTY

First Reading: Date / Vote

Second Reading: Date / Vote

Public Hearings: Date / Vote

Third and Final Reading: Date / Vote

Application for funding

A. Overview:

1. Name of Project:
2. Project Executive Summary (250-500 words):

3. Type of Project (select one):
 - ☐ Fee Simple
 - ☐ Conservation Easement
 - ☐ Boat landing
 - ☐ Heritage corridor

B. Applicant Information:

1. Applicant Name:
2. Mailing Address:
3. Authorized Agent for Applicant:
 - a. Name
 - b. Title
 - c. Phone
 - d. Email

C. Property Information:

1. Landowner Name(s)
 - a. Is the landowner an LLC, Limited Partnership, or any other entity?
2. Landowner Mailing Address
3. Property Address (if different from landowner address)
4. Describe the current uses for the subject property:
5. Parcel Identification Number(s)
6. Acreage
7. Current Zoning Status – *must get a zoning certificate from the county
8. Site Accessibility – Is the property currently accessible by a road?
9. Water Access – Does the subject property have direct access to water?

D. Project Budget Information

Applicant may provide quotes for due diligence/allowable costs and request for due diligence funding, or provide recent due diligence for review and request acquisition funding.

Allowable Costs:

- Appraisal: A full appraisal report less than one year old is required prior to closing and strongly encouraged to be included as part of the application and review process. Appraisers must be selected from SC Conservation Bank reviewed list:
<https://airtable.com/appNo73zDs1lilkZf/shrXBgAHfGwsLGIPb/tblAqNvoQT75SJGby>
- Survey / Plat: An approved, recorded plat or boundary survey indicating the subject parcel's property lines is required prior to closing as it will be attached to the grant agreement. Survey/Plat must show actual acreage and boundary lines of the property or portion of the property being funded with Greenbelt monies, unless otherwise approved by the County.
- Environmental Survey Assessment (ESA): A Phase 1 ESA must be conducted on each greenbelt property prior to closing. The ESA does not need to be completed during the application process.
- Acquisition: Include the total requested for acquisition of the conservation easement or fee purchase. Include all other funding matches received or pledged, including any in-kind match, here.
- **Note:** Greenbelt funds cannot be used to pay for property taxes, deed stamps or structures. Allowable costs incurred by the applicant during the application process will not be reimbursed if the project is denied.

Provide a project budget using the table below and in narrative form:

Budget overview (250-500 words):

Cost Category	Cost	Notes/Description
Due Diligence Costs		
Appraised value (CE or Fee as applicable)		
Partner Funds Received/Pledged		
Partner Funds Applied for		
Landowner donation		
Other		
Total Due Diligence Request:		
Total CE/Fee Acquisition Request:		

E. Project Narrative: (rec. 500-1000 words)

Note: Applicant to provide a project narrative about the costs, benefits, conservation values, and long-term protection of the project. Applicant may describe the project generally and/or refer to project scoring criteria and expand on specific categories that will be reviewed and scored.

F. Applicant Agreement

You are requesting \$xx.xx in greenbelt funds.

I, _____. the authorized agent, hereby certify to the best of my knowledge that this application is a true and accurate portrayal of the site proposed for acquisition as well as the proposed land uses and development under the Jasper County Greenbelt. I also understand that applications missing information or any of the attachments may be deemed incomplete and deferred until the next funding cycle.

Authorized Agent Signature

Date Signed

Name Title

Witness Signature

Date Signed

Name Title

Project Scoring Criteria (points may change)

Each project will be reviewed using the following criteria and the associated score applied. NOTE: Each item must include a description of how this project meets the particular elements of that criteria.

1. Natural Resource Criteria (_____ total points)

Protection of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Values - Max 20 points, select all that apply

- ☐ unique or important wildlife habitat; (2 points)
- ☐ presence of any rare or endangered species; (2 points)
- ☐ potential for conservation of a relatively undisturbed or outstanding example of an ecosystem native to South Carolina and of importance to Jasper County; (2 points)
- ☐ potential for conservation of riparian habitats, wetlands, water quality, watersheds of significant ecological value, critical aquifer recharge areas, estuaries, bays, or beaches; (2 points)
- ☐ protection of outstanding geologic features; (2 points)
- ☐ protection of unique historical or archaeological significance; (2 points)
- ☐ protection of productive forestlands, farmlands; (2 points)
- ☐ presence of forestlands or farmlands which are located on prime soils, in microclimates or have strategic geographical significances; (2 points)
- ☐ the value of the proposal for the conservation of an area for public outdoor recreation, greenways, or parkland; (2 points)
- ☐ potential for conservation of a larger area or ecosystem already containing protected lands, or as a connection between natural habitats or open space that are already protected (2 points)

Scenic Protections – Max 5 points

- ☐ Degree to which the project would protect scenic viewsheds from public roads or waterways, with additional scoring emphasis given to designated scenic roads and rivers.

Protection of wildlife habitat (Choose one) - Max 5 points

<https://www.dnr.sc.gov/species/index.html>

- ☐ Protects wildlife habitat of endangered or threatened species - 5 points
- ☐ Protects wildlife habitat of any species - 2 points
- ☐ No wildlife habitat protection - 0 points

Historical and cultural features (Choose one) - Max 5 points

- ☐ Recognized historically/culturally significant lands, properties listed on the National Historic Register, or land containing structures, structure remains, earthworks, artifacts, etc. of historical or cultural significance - 5 points
- ☐ Documented historical event occurrence - 4 points
- ☐ Oral/anecdotal tradition of historical occurrence - 2 points

- ☐ No historical or cultural significance - 0 points

2. Public Benefit Criteria (_____ total points)

Threat of Loss - Max 5 points

- ☐ Protects land under imminent threat of loss to development - 5 points
- ☐ Project poses unique opportunity not likely to present itself again - 3 points
- ☐ Not immediately threatened - 1 point

Consistent with Adopted Plans (Choose All that apply) - Max 5 points

- ☐ State Conservation Bank Plan - 2 points
- ☐ County/Municipal Comprehensive Land Use Plan - 1 points
- ☐ Jasper County Open Space Plan - 1 points
- ☐ Other - 1 points (please cite plan: _____)

Addresses public access and use – Max 5 points

- ☐ Greenspace with full public access (open daily during daylight hours; may close for holidays) - 5 points
- ☐ Greenspace with partial public access (land manager restricts days/hours of week) - 2 points
- ☐ Greenspace with limited public access (access by invitation only at least once annually - 1 points
- ☐ No public access - 0 points

Level of Public Support (Choose All that apply)-Max 6 points

- ☐ Support Letters or Emails from Individuals or Grassroots Organizations - 3 points
- ☐ Favorable Results of Public Meeting/Survey - 2 points
- ☐ Support Letters/Emails from Regional/National Advocacy Organizations - 1 points
- ☐ No documented public support - 0 points

3. Funding Criteria (_____ total points)

Funding and leveraging – Max 15 points

Applicant must show that the project provides a unique value opportunity in that it protects land at a reasonable cost; scoring will be based on the degree to which the proposal leverages trust funds by including funding or in-kind assets or services from other governmental sources, from private or nonprofit sources, or charitable donations of land or conservation easements,

- ☐ Highly leveraged where >80% project costs provided by project partners (15 points)
- ☐ Highly leveraged where >50% project costs provided by project partners (10-14 points)
- ☐ Leveraged where >30% project costs provided by project partners (5-9 points)
- ☐ Minimally leveraged where <30% project costs provided by project partners (1-4 points)

Return on Investment (Choose All that apply)-Max 6 points

- ☐ Provides recreation and/or tourism income - 1 points
- ☐ Provides economic benefit (such as timbering, farmland) - 1 points
- ☐ Provides public health benefit - 1 points
- ☐ Provides public services such as resiliency, natural infrastructure and resistance to flooding - 1 points
- ☐ Provides ecological services (such as purification of air and water; decomposition of
- ☐ wastes; soil and vegetation generation and renewal; pollination of crops and natural vegetation; groundwater recharge through wetlands; seed dispersal; greenhouse gas mitigation; and aesthetically pleasing landscapes) - 1 points
- ☐ Other (such as property will remain on the tax rolls) - 1 points

Project Management (max 5 points)

Applicant must demonstrate its expertise and financial resources to manage the land and improvements. For conservation easements, applicant must demonstrate their expertise and financial resources to enforce restrictions placed on the land.

- ☐ Applicant possesses financial expertise
- ☐ Applicant does not have financial expertise