



# FUNDING SOURCES

## F.1. Summary

The primary purpose of this report is to define and describe possible funding sources that could be used to support the conservation and planning of greenbelts in Charleston County.

## F.2. Overview of National and Federal Funding Sources

Most federal programs provide block grants directly to states through funding formulas. For example, if a South Carolina community wants funding to support a transportation initiative, they would contact the South Carolina Department of Transportation and not the US Department of Transportation to obtain a grant. Despite the fact that it is rare for a local community to obtain a funding grant directly from a federal agency, it is relevant to list the current status of federal programs and the amount of funding that is available to South Carolina through these programs.

### *F.2.1 Surface Transportation Act (SAFETEA LU)*

For the past 15 years, the Surface Transportation Act has been the largest single source of funding for the development of greenway, pedestrian and bikeway projects. Prior to 1990, the nation, as a whole, spent approximately \$25 million on building community-based bicycle and pedestrian projects, with the vast majority of this money spent in one state. Since the passage of ISTEA, funding has been increased dramatically for bicycle, pedestrian and greenway projects, with total spending north of \$5 billion. SAFETEA-LU will more than double the total amount of funding for bicycle/pedestrian/trail projects as compared to its predecessor TEA-21, with approximately \$800 million available each year.



There are many programs within SAFETEA-LU that deserve mention. The authorizing legislation is complicated and robust. The following provides a summary of how this federal funding can be used to support certain elements of the Charleston County Comprehensive Greenbelts Plan.

#### *Surface Transportation Program (STP)*

This is the largest single program within the legislation from a funding point of view, with \$32.5 billion committed over the next five years. Of particular interest to greenway enthusiasts, 10 percent of the funding within this program is set aside for Transportation Enhancements (TE) activities. Historically, a little more than half of the TE funds have been used nationally to support bicycle/pedestrian/trail projects. So nationally, it is projected that \$1.625 billion will be spent on these projects under SAFETEA-LU.

#### *Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)*

Under SAFETEA-LU, approximately \$8.6 billion has been set aside. Historically, about five percent of these funds have been used to support bicycle/pedestrian/trail projects. This would equal about \$430 million under SAFETEA-LU. The Charleston County region will most likely remain a non-attainment area throughout the life of SAFETEA, and that makes it a very eligible community for this type of funding. The Birmingham, AL, metro region, for example, used all of its CMAQ allocation one year to fund a regional bicycle, pedestrian and trails study, which subsequently identified projects that were funded for development.

#### *Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)*

SAFETEA-LU funds this program at \$5 billion over four years. Historically, bicycle and pedestrian projects have accounted for one percent of this program, or about \$50 million under SAFETEA-LU. Some of the eligible uses of these funds would include traffic calming, bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements, and installation of crossing signs. This is not a huge source of funding, but one that could be used to fund elements of a project.

#### *Recreational Trails Program (RTP)*

The Recreational Trails Program is specifically set up to fund both motorized and non-motorized trail development. Under SAFETEA-LU funding is established at \$370 million for the five-year term of the legislation. At least 30% of these funds must be spent on non-motorized trails, or \$110 million. South Carolina operates a grant program to distribute to this funding to local governments.

#### *Scenic Byways*

The National Scenic Byway program has not traditionally been a good source of funding for bicycle/pedestrian/trail projects. The total amount of funding available nationally is \$175 million under SAFETA-LU. Historically only 2 percent of these funds have been used to support bicycle and pedestrian improvements.

#### *Safe Routes to School Program (SR2S)*

A new program under SAFETEA-LU is the Safe Routes to School (SR2S) program, with \$612 million in funding during the term of the legislation. This is an excellent new program, that within South Carolina can be paired with a variety of health and wellness programs, to increase funding for access to the outdoors for children. Each state will receive no less than \$1 million in funding, with 10% to 30% of the funds allocated to non-infrastructure activities.

#### *High Priority Projects*

Under SAFETEA-LU more than 5,091 transportation projects were earmarked by Congress for development, with a total value in excess of \$3 billion. Within the Charleston metro area of South Carolina HPP several high priority projects have been defined.

#### ***F.2.2 Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)***

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is the largest source of federal money for park, wildlife, and open space land acquisition. The program's funding comes primarily from offshore oil and gas drilling receipts, with an authorized expenditure of \$900 million each year. However, Congress generally appropriates only a fraction of this amount. The program provides up to 50 percent of the cost of a project, with the balance of the funds paid by states or municipalities. These funds



can be used for outdoor recreation projects, including acquisition, renovation, and development. Projects require a 50 percent match.

For 2006, Congress has appropriated \$30 million for state assistance, which is about 1/3 of the financial support in 2005. This program is administered by the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism. The amount of money available through this program within South Carolina is less than \$1 million.

### ***F.2.3 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)***

The EPA funds a program that enables communities to clean up polluted properties.

#### **Grant Funding**

- Needy communities fare better in competition
- High unemployment rates, high poverty rates, loss of jobs/population, minority or other sensitive populations. Include demographic statistics.
- Mention any unusually high health concerns in the area. Can any of these be tied to the site(s)?
- Present the environmental, economic, social and health impacts of brownfields on the community
- Environmental Justice concerns
- Focus on the environmental and health impacts of your project.

### ***F.2.4 Community Block Development Grant Program (HUD-CBDG)***

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) offers financial grants to communities for neighborhood revitalization, economic development, and improvements to community facilities and services, especially in low and moderate-income areas. Several communities have used HUD funds to develop greenways, including the Boulding Branch Greenway in High Point, North Carolina. Grants from this program range from \$50,000 to \$200,000 and are either made to municipalities or non-profits. There is no formal application process.

## **F.3 Overview of State Funding Sources**

The most direct source of public-sector funding for local governments in Charleston County can come from state agencies. Generally, these funds are made available to local governments based on grant-in-aid formulas. The single most important key to obtaining state grant funding is for local governments to have adopted plans for greenway, bicycle, pedestrian or trail systems in place prior to making an application for funding. This report summarizes the programs that most often have been used to support greenway, bicycle and pedestrian development. A brief description of the program is provided followed by a list of current funding levels and information necessary to obtain grant forms to access the funds.

### ***F.3.1 South Carolina Conservation Bank***

The goal of the South Carolina Conservation Bank is to improve the quality of life in South Carolina through the conservation of significant natural resource lands, wetlands, historical properties, and archeological sites. The Act is funded by placing twenty-five cents out of each one dollar thirty-five cents of the Documentary Deed Stamp recording fee into a trust for the Conservation Bank to carry out the Act. Funding began in July 2004. Landowners who wish to participate may sell property outright or sell conservation easements and retain traditional use of the land. Only willing landowners will participate in this program. No one can be forced to sell land or provide easements. With an increasingly mobile society, South Carolina has an exceptionally high quality of life, but in order to attract the next generation of growth, the State's quality of life must be protected by securing important landscapes. Funding from the Bank can be used to:

- Protect significant natural resource areas and wildlife habitats
- Protect water quality
- Maintain the State's forest lands
- Protect farmlands, especially family farms
- Protect and enhance the State's natural beauty
- Protect and enhance significant historical and archaeological sites



- Enhance public access for outdoor recreation and preserve traditional uses such as hunting, fishing, and other types of outdoor recreation.

Funding of proposals is based on the amount of funding available and the priority of the proposals as set by the Conservation Bank Board in accordance with the statutory criteria. Non-acceptance of a proposal does not mean it is not a good proposal, nor does non-acceptance under one budget cycle preclude a proposal from being re-submitted. Proposals go through a two-stage process of implementation. Web site: <http://sccbanc.sc.gov>. E-mail: [DavantM@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:DavantM@dnr.sc.gov).

### ***F.3.2 South Carolina Department of Transportation – SAFETEA***

The South Carolina DOT manages the implementation of all transportation programs and improvements throughout the state. SCDOT produces a Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The STIP is a comprehensive report listing the various types of projects in which work activity is planned within the next five years. The report details the funding of each project and the work phase for each project in the appropriate year. The present STIP includes the fiscal years 2005 - 2007. It is produced and printed every two years as part of the SAFETEA federal requirement. For the purpose of greenway, bicycle, pedestrian and trail projects. The following funding has been defined within SAFETEA-LU for the SCDOT. The description of each program is provided under the Federal Sources SAFETEA description.

Σ STP - \$551 million  
 Σ CMAQ - \$43 million  
 Σ HSIP - \$128 million

### ***F.3.3 South Carolina DOT Pedestrian and Bicycle Program***

The South Carolina Department of Transportation is committed to meeting the on-going challenge of providing better and safer accommodations for people who choose to walk or cycle. This effort is coordinated by the agency's Pedestrian and Bicycle Program. Early in 2002, SCDOT Executive Director Elizabeth Mabry launched a 'new initiative' to establish partnerships to provide more facilities for bicycling and walking in

South Carolina. A Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure Advisory Committee was formed in June 2002, composed of representatives of the private sector, the General Assembly, other state agencies, and walking and cycling advocacy groups. Since 1992, the SCDOT Commission has elected to allocate a portion of available funds for the Transportation Enhancement Program. The program facilitates and provides a greater opportunity for local governments to collaborate with the agency to pursue a broad range of non-traditional transportation related activities such as bicycle and pedestrian facilities, streetscaping, scenic and landscaping programs, and historic preservation.

There is no specific financial information available for the program.

The contact person is Pedestrian and Bicycle: Tom Dodds, Pedestrian & Bicycle Coordinator, South Carolina Dept of Transportation, PO Box 191, Columbia SC 29202-0191. (803)737-1052. E-mail: [doddsdt@scdot.org](mailto:doddsdt@scdot.org)

### ***F.3.4 South Carolina DOT Recreational Trails Program***

The Recreational Trails Program is a federally funded grant program to build or improve trails across South Carolina. This is a reimbursable grant program requiring a 20% match. RTP funds are available to state, federal and local government agencies or qualified private organizations. The minimum grant amount is \$10,000 with a maximum of \$100,000. Final appropriations for this program are not currently available, although the amount is expected to be approximately \$700,000. South Carolina will receive a total of \$5.5 million through SAFETEA-LU to fund this program for Fiscal Years 2004 to 2009. It is not clear when applications are due for the grant.

The contact person is Pedestrian and Bicycle: Tom Dodds, Pedestrian & Bicycle Coordinator, South Carolina Dept of Transportation, PO Box 191, Columbia SC 29202-0191. (803)737-1052. E-mail: [doddsdt@scdot.org](mailto:doddsdt@scdot.org)





**F.3.5 South Carolina Recreation Land Trust Fund Grants**

The Recreation Land Trust Fund Grant (RELT) is a state-funded grant program specifically for the purpose of acquiring property for public recreation. It requires a 50% match and is a reimbursable grant. RELT funds are available only for local or state agencies. The maximum you can apply for is \$25,000, unless your project is determined to have regional or statewide significance, in which case you may be eligible for up to \$100,000. Final appropriations for this program are not currently available, although the amount is expected to be approximately \$250,000.

The Recreation Land Trust Fund grant is one of four that provides technical assistance and administers grant programs for development of public recreational opportunities throughout the state. All grant programs administered by this office are reimbursable funds from various sources with specific qualifications and restrictions as described below.

**Annual Grant Cycle:**

- Can only be used for the acquisition of land for the purpose of public recreation
- Applications graded utilizing Open Project Selection Process (OPSP) reviewed by a grading team
- This is a 50-50 match program
- Eligible governmental entities are notified and letters of intent are solicited in December
- Applications are then mailed to those who respond and the application deadline is in March.

Contact: SC Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism, 1205 Pendleton St., Room 505 Columbia SC 29201. E-mail: [recreationgrants@scprt.com](mailto:recreationgrants@scprt.com). Web site: [www.discoverouthcarolina.com/agency/grantslandtrust.asp](http://www.discoverouthcarolina.com/agency/grantslandtrust.asp).

**F.3.6 South Carolina Parks and Recreation Development Fund**

The Park & Recreation Development Fund grant is one of four that provides technical assistance and administers grant programs for development of public recreational opportunities throughout the state. All grant programs administered by this office are reimbursable funds from various sources with specific qualifications and restrictions as described below (grant cycles monthly):

- Non-competitive program available to eligible local governmental entities within each county area for development of new public recreation facilities or enhancement/renovations to existing facilities
  - Projects need endorsement of majority weighted vote factor of County Legislative Delegation Members
  - This is an 80-20 match program
  - Application Deadline is the 10th of each month
- Eligible Entities notified of new Allocation amounts each July.

Contact: SC Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism, 1205 Pendleton St., Room 505 Columbia SC 29201. E-mail: [recreationgrants@scprt.com](mailto:recreationgrants@scprt.com). Web site: [www.discoverouthcarolina.com/agency/grantslandtrust.asp](http://www.discoverouthcarolina.com/agency/grantslandtrust.asp).

**F.3.7 South Carolina National Heritage Corridor Grant Program**

The SC National Heritage Corridor, through a public, private partnership with the SC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, will provide opportunities for communities and organizations to conserve and develop their historical, cultural, and natural assets so they may contribute to the sustainable economic revitalization of the Heritage Corridor. It is the mission of the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor to promote development in the areas of conservation and preservation; education and interpretation; and nature-based recreation while serving economic development.

- Economic Development Projects should have the potential for providing economic opportunities related to heritage tourism through public and private partnerships.
- Conservation and Preservation Projects must help conserve the historical, cultural, and natural assets of the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor.
- Education and Interpretation Projects should increase public awareness and appreciation of the historical, cultural, and natural assets of the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor.
- Nature-Based Recreation Projects should enhance the potential of natural areas to provide environmental opportunities for nature-based tourism.



Developing, implementing, and maintaining a successful heritage tourism attraction is a long-term, complex process and involves many features. In order to assist communities and organizations in preparing a program that will benefit the existing residents and attract visitors to the area, grants will be made available in the following two categories. Applicants may submit grant proposals in multiple grant cycles, however total grant awards may not exceed \$60,000 per location. Grant applicants must provide a dollar for dollar, 50/50 reimbursable cash match to the grant request. For example, if the total proposed project budget is \$20,000, the organization may request \$10,000 in grant funds and must provide an additional cash match of \$10,000. This match must come from funds other than federal money, such as state, local, and/or private funds. Each grant applicant must demonstrate a dollar-for-dollar cash match and provide legible invoices or receipts for all project expenses before payment will be distributed. It will also be necessary to submit copies of cancelled checks (front and back) to earn reimbursement. Partial reimbursement may be given for grants exceeding \$2,500 before the project is completed, according to an agreed upon payment schedule.

Funds may be used for technical assistance including but not limited to feasibility studies (engineering, architecture and marketing); interpretation, museum exhibits, marketing, displays based on historical research and artifacts, conservation and preservation, agricultural heritage programs, interpretive programs, and nature-based recreation. Projects that directly impact the visitor experience and that demonstrate a high degree of sustainability will be given greater consideration. Support will be considered for cultural, ethnic, arts and recreation programs to the extent that they highlight the themes of the SCNHC.

Intent to Apply Applications are Due: April 3 and September 3. Awards occur on May 15 and October 15. All applications must be received by 5:00 P.M. on or before the due date by the SCNHC Grants Manager. In the event the deadline falls on a weekend, the grants must be received by the following Monday at noon. Web site: [www.sc-heritagecorridor.org/html/grantprogram.htm](http://www.sc-heritagecorridor.org/html/grantprogram.htm). E-mail: [DHarris@scprt.com](mailto:DHarris@scprt.com).

## F.4 Overview of Local Government Funding Sources

Within Charleston County local governments should create independent, local funding sources to be used to match federal and state grants for greenway development. The following provides a list of funding options that each of the local governments should consider for future greenbelts acquisition and facility development.

### F.4.1 Bonds/Loans

Bonds have been a very popular way for communities across the country to finance their open space and greenway projects. A number of bond options are listed below. Contracting with a private consultant to assist with this program may be advisable. Since bonds rely on the support of the voting population, an education and awareness program should be implemented prior to any vote.

#### *Revenue Bonds*

Revenue bonds are bonds that are secured by a pledge of the revenues from a certain local government activity. The entity issuing bonds, pledges to generate sufficient revenue annually to cover the program's operating costs, plus meet the annual debt service requirements (principal and interest payment). Revenue bonds are not constrained by the debt ceilings of general obligation bonds, but they are generally more expensive than general obligation bonds.

#### *General Obligation Bonds*

Local governments generally are able to issue general obligation (G.O.) bonds that are secured by the full faith and credit of the entity. In this case, the local government issuing the bonds pledges to raise its property taxes, or use any other sources of revenue, to generate sufficient revenues to make the debt service payments on the bonds. A general obligation pledge is stronger than a revenue pledge, and thus may carry a lower interest rate than a revenue bond. Frequently, when local governments issue G.O. bonds for public enterprise improvements, the public enterprise will make the debt service payments on the G.O. bonds with revenues generated through the public entity's rates and charges. However, if those rate revenues are insufficient to make



the debt payment, the local government is obligated to raise taxes or use other sources of revenue to make the payments. G.O. bonds distribute the costs of open space acquisition and make funds available for immediate purchases. Voter approval is required.

#### *Special Assessment Bonds*

Special assessment bonds are secured by a lien on the property that benefits by the improvements funded with the special assessment bond proceeds. Debt service payments on these bonds are funded through annual assessments to the property owners in the assessment area.

#### ***F.4.2 State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loans***

Initially funded with federal and state money, and continued by funds generated by repayment of earlier loans, State Revolving Funds (SRFs) provide low-interest loans for local governments to fund water pollution control and water supply related projects including many watershed management activities. These loans typically require a revenue pledge, like a revenue bond, but carry a below market interest rate and limited term for debt repayment (20 years).

#### ***F.4.3 Taxes***

A number of taxes provide direct or indirect funding for the operations of local governments. Some of them are:

##### *Sales Tax*

In South Carolina, the state has authorized a sales tax at the state and county levels. Local governments that choose to exercise the local option sales tax (all counties currently do), use the tax revenues to provide funding for a wide variety of projects and activities. Any increase in the sales tax, even if applying to a single county, must gain approval of the state legislature..

##### *Property Tax*

Property taxes generally support a significant portion of a local government activities. However, the revenues from property taxes can also be used to pay debt service on general obligation bonds issued to finance open space system acquisitions. Because of limits imposed on tax rates, use of property taxes to fund open space could limit the county's or a municipality's ability to

raise funds for other activities. Property taxes can provide a steady stream of financing while broadly distributing the tax burden. In other parts of the country, this mechanism has been popular with voters as long as the increase is restricted to parks and open space. Note, other public agencies compete vigorously for these funds, and taxpayers are generally concerned about high property tax rates.

##### *Excise Taxes*

Excise taxes are taxes on specific goods and services. These taxes require special legislation and the use of the funds generated through the tax are limited to specific uses. Examples include lodging, food, and beverage taxes that generate funds for promotion of tourism, and the gas tax that generates revenues for transportation related activities.

#### ***F.4.4 SC Conservation Incentives Act (H3782, Act 283)***

The intent of the act is to: "protect and preserve natural areas and their traditional uses while paying appropriate deference to property rights, expending no state funds, and keeping property in the private sector and on property tax rolls."

SC tax law generally allows a state income tax deduction for voluntary donations of land or conservation easements that qualify for a charitable deduction under federal tax law. Qualifying for the federal deduction under code 170(h) usually qualifies the donor for the South Carolina tax credit. Golf courses do not qualify for a deduction or credit.

The SC Conservation Incentives Act allows a credit of 25% of the value of the donation, with a cap of \$250 per acre and an annual limit of \$52,500. The annual credit may not exceed tax liability, but may be carried forward indefinitely until fully used. Also, the credit is transferable, allowing the landowner to sell, gift, or bequeath credit with written approval. See [www.conservesc.com](http://www.conservesc.com) to buy or sell credits.



*Properties Utilizing Forestry and Silva Culture*

Despite being ineligible for a Federal & State Income Deduction under Section 170(h) the state tax credit is allowed for SC properties following forestry and silva culture practices if the property would otherwise qualify for a charitable deduction as set out in Section 170(h).

*Post-Mortem*

The SC Conservation Incentives Act amends Article 3 of the Probate Code to allow a personal representative of an estate or a trustee of a trust to grant a conservation easement or a fee-simple gift of land for conservation purposes. This requires written consent from all heirs, beneficiaries and devisees, whose interests would be affected by the donation. (A post-mortem donation is not eligible for a federal or state income tax deduction.)

*SC Tax Credit Example:*

A landowner donates a conservation easement on a 2,000-acre reserve. The easement qualifies under Section 170(h) as a charitable deduction so it is eligible for the SC income tax credit. The qualified appraisal values the land at \$8,000,000 and the easement at \$2,400,000. Although 25% of \$2,400,000 equals \$600,000, the cap of \$250/acre limits the credit to \$500,000. The landowner may deduct the lesser of tax liability or \$52,500 in any given year. The remainder may be carried forward indefinitely or transferred until the full \$500,000 credit is used.

***F.4.5 2005 South Carolina Tax Amendments***

South Carolina has been a leader in addressing national and state concerns over misuse of conservation easements. In 2004, with the cooperation of local land trusts, the S.C. Department of Revenue conducted an extensive audit of conservation agreements across the state. They found a small number of violations, typically driven by over-inflated valuations and lack of conservation benefit to the general public. To curtail potential future abuses, the General Assembly, in August of 2005, adopted significant amendments affecting the deductibility of non-cash charitable contributions, including conservation easements valued at more than \$100,000. Not all of the changes are new, but they may create situations where a donor qualifies for a federal deduction (Federal Tax Credit Form 8283) but not a state deduction and credit.

**F.5 Fees and Service Charges**

Several fee options that have been used by other local governments are listed here:

***F.5.1 Stormwater Utility Fees***

Stormwater charges are typically based on an estimate of the amount of impervious surface on a user's property. Impervious surfaces (such as rooftops and paved areas) increase both the amount and rate of stormwater runoff compared to natural conditions. Such surfaces cause runoff that directly or indirectly discharges into public storm drainage facilities and creates a need for stormwater management services. Thus, users with more impervious surface are charged more for stormwater service than users with less impervious surface.

The rates, fees, and charges collected for stormwater management services may not exceed the costs incurred to provide these services. The costs that may be recovered through the stormwater rates, fees, and charges includes any costs necessary to assure that all aspects of stormwater quality and quantity are managed in accordance with federal and state laws, regulations, and rules. Open space may be purchased with stormwater fees, if the property in question is used to mitigate floodwater or filter pollutants.

***F.5.2 Impact Fees***

Impact fees, which are also known as capital contributions, facilities fees, or system development charges, are typically collected from developers or property owners at the time of building permit issuance to pay for capital improvements that provide capacity to serve new growth. The intent of these fees is to avoid burdening existing customers with the costs of providing capacity to serve new growth ("growth pays its own way"). Park and greenway impact fees are designed to reflect the costs incurred to provide sufficient capacity in the system to meet the additional open space needs of a growing community. These charges are set in a fee schedule applied uniformly to all new development. Communities that institute impact fees must develop a sound financial model that enables policy makers to justify fee levels for different user groups, and to ensure that revenues generated meet (but do not exceed) the needs of development. Factors used to determine an appropriate





impact fee amount can include: lot size, number of occupants, and types of subdivision improvements.

Pursuing park and greenway impact fees will require enabling legislation to authorize the collection of the fees.

### ***F.5.3 In-Lieu-Of Fees***

As an alternative to requiring developers to dedicate on-site open space that would serve their development, some communities provide a choice of paying a front-end charge for off-site open space protection. Payment is generally a condition of development approval and recovers the cost of the off-site greenway land acquisition or the development's proportionate share of the cost of a regional parcel serving a larger area. Some communities prefer in-lieu-of fees. This alternative allows community staff to purchase land worthy of protection rather than accept marginal land that meets the quantitative requirements of a developer dedication but falls a bit short of qualitative interests.

## **F.6 Other Local Options**

### ***F.6.1 Local Capital Improvements Program***

In communities that can afford it a yearly appropriation for greenway and trail development in the capital improvements program is another option. In Raleigh, for example, the greenways system has been developed over many years through a dedicated source of annual funding that has ranged from \$100,000 to \$500,000, administered through the Parks and Recreation Department.

### ***F.6.2 Local Trail Sponsors***

A sponsorship program for trail amenities allows smaller donations to be received from both individuals and businesses. Cash donations could be placed into a trust fund to be accessed for certain construction or acquisition projects associated with the greenways and open space system. Some recognition of the donors is appropriate and can be accomplished through the placement of a plaque, the naming of a trail segment, and/or special recognition at an opening ceremony. Types of gifts other than cash could include donations of services, equipment, labor, or reduced costs for supplies.

### ***F.6.3 Volunteer Work***

It is expected that many citizens will be excited about the development of a greenway corridor or a new park or canoe access point. Individual volunteers from the community can be brought together with groups of volunteers from church groups, civic groups, scout troops and environmental groups to work on greenway development on special community workdays. Volunteers can also be used for fund-raising, maintenance, and programming needs.

## **F.7 Private Foundations and Corporations**

Many communities have solicited greenway funding assistance from private foundations and other conservation-minded benefactors. Below are examples of private funding opportunities available in South Carolina.

### ***F.7.1 American Greenways Eastman Kodak Awards***

The Conservation Fund's American Greenways Program has teamed with the Eastman Kodak Corporation and the National Geographic Society to award small grants (\$250 to \$2,000) to stimulate the planning, design and development of greenways. These grants can be used for activities such as mapping, conducting ecological assessments, surveying land, holding conferences, developing brochures, producing interpretive displays, incorporating land trusts, and building trails. Grants cannot be used for academic research, institutional support, lobbying or political activities. For more information visit The Conservation Fund's website at: [www.conservationfund.org](http://www.conservationfund.org).

### ***F.7.2 National Trails Fund***

American Hiking Society created the National Trails Fund in 1998, the only privately supported national grants program providing funding to grassroots organizations working toward establishing, protecting and maintaining foot trails in America. 73 million people enjoy foot trails annually, yet many of our favorite trails need major repairs due to a \$200 million backlog of badly needed maintenance. National Trails Fund grants help give local organizations the resources they need to secure access, volunteers, tools and materials to protect America's cherished public trails. For 2005, American Hiking distributed over \$40,000 in grants thanks to the



generous support of Cascade Designs and L.L.Bean, the program's Charter Sponsors. To date, American Hiking has granted more than \$240,000 to 56 different trail projects across the U.S. for land acquisition, constituency building campaigns, and traditional trail work projects. Awards range from \$500 to \$10,000 per project. What types of projects will American Hiking Society consider? Securing trail lands, including acquisition of trails and trail corridors, and the costs associated with acquiring conservation easements. Building and maintaining trails which will result in visible and substantial ease of access, improved hiker safety, and/or avoidance of environmental damage. Constituency building surrounding specific trail projects - including volunteer recruitment and support. The application deadline to be considered for a 2006 National Trails Fund grant is November 1, 2005 (postmark date). Grants will be awarded in March 2006. Web site: [www.americanhiking.org/alliance/fund.html](http://www.americanhiking.org/alliance/fund.html).

### ***F.7.3 Coastal Community Foundation of South Carolina***

The Coastal Community Foundation serving the Lowcountry was founded in Charleston in 1974 to serve the eight coastal counties of South Carolina. The foundation provides funding in various program areas, including: arts, education, basic human needs, neighborhood and community development, health, conservation, historical preservation, and animal welfare. The foundation's Web site includes grant descriptions, guidelines, downloadable applications, a complete listing of scholarships, a detailed list of past grants, news and events, a donor guide, and a regional map covering funding possibilities in surrounding areas.

The Foundation offers the Lowcountry Conservation Loan Fund as a way to preserve the natural heritage of the Lowcountry landscapes. Imagine our beloved Lowcountry without the rose hued marsh expanses at sunset...without the clean rows of farmland and black water tidal creeks? The Merck Family Fund and the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation have been worried about valuable land loss for a long time. In 2002, each contributed \$500,000 to create the Lowcountry Conservation Loan Fund at CCF to provide conservation groups with low-interest, interim loans to protect valuable, "at-risk" Lowcountry land. Since

then, the Fund has made three loans, two of which have been fully repaid. The first loan was given to The Nature Conservancy to benefit the Francis Marion National Forest. The second enabled The Audubon Society to add to its holdings in the Audubon Sanctuary at Beidler Forest. Most recently, CCF loaned the Edisto Open Land Trust \$380,000 to acquire 24 acres of farmland to help preserve a portion of scenic Highway 174 in the ACE Basin. Web site: [www.ccf Gives.org/about\\_initiatives.html](http://www.ccf Gives.org/about_initiatives.html).

### ***F.7.4 Ducks Unlimited, Inc. South Carolina Conservation Programs***

In South Carolina, Ducks Unlimited's wetland conservation program continues to grow and gain popularity, especially land protection. We are finding and responding to excellent opportunities for wetland conservation on both private and public lands. Our habitat conservation priorities continue to be the protection, restoration, and enhancement of coastal, forested and riverine wetlands. Collectively, these programs have benefited in the conservation of over 119,000 acres of various wetland habitats since conservation activities began for South Carolina in 1989. The following is a summary of the activities and accomplishments of the DU South Carolina Conservation Program for the period July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005.

#### ***South Carolina Public Lands***

To date there are 21 completed projects that have conserved over 26,000 wetland acres on public lands throughout the state. Projects completed in FY05 include the Pee Dee Research and Education Center, which enhanced 100 acres of wetland habitat on Dargan's Pond. Partners included DU, several major donors, Clemson University, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Additionally, DU partnered on a NAWCA grant with the South Carolina Audubon Society to acquire 2,443 acres along the Edisto River (Berkeley County). DU provided the value of two donated conservation easements as match. Also, DU continued its support of the Governor's Wood Duck Box Program organized by the SC DNR and the Historic Ricefields Association. DU has contributed over \$31,000 to this project since 2004. Construction on the Broad River Wildlife Management Area project (50 acres), which was to be completed in FY05, has been delayed due to



flooding and will not be completed until FY06. Future projects include enhancement of 701 wetland acres on Cape Romain NWR and 100 acres of wetlands on Santee NWR. Informational requests on public land projects should be referred to Dale James, Regional Biologist (djames@ducks.org) or Craig LeSchack, Director of Conservation Programs (cleschack@ducks.org) at (843) 745-9110.

#### *Lowcountry Initiative*

South Carolina is where DU accepted its first easement in 1989. Since then, 91 easements perpetually protect approximately 84,607 acres of wildlife habitat in the Lowcountry and an additional 8,377 acres in the rest of the state. In FY05, we accepted donation of 14 properties that totaled over 14,000 acres. Easement opportunities will continue to expand as landowners become more aware of how to use this program as a means to protect the conservation value of their property. For more information on the Lowcountry Initiative, contact Badge Humphries, Director of Land Protection, at (843) 745-9110 or bhumphries@ducks.org.



