



View preservation, including scenic roadways, is one of many functions of greenspace.

BENEFITS OF GREENSPACE

G.1 Benefits and Functions of Greenspace

All types of greenspace may serve as “natural infrastructure” that provide a number of important functions and benefits for community residents. Different types of greenspace provide benefits depending on the nature of the greenspace, location and other factors. Many greenspaces provide multiple benefits while others, such as wildlife areas, may have specific but limited functions, though nonetheless very important. Following are key identified functions and benefits.

G.1.1 Hazard Reduction and Public Safety — reduces risk to life and property associated with lands prone to hurricanes, floods, and fires or other constraints such as unsuitable soils and wetlands that make lands unsuitable for urban development for public safety or health reasons.

G.1.2 Urban Resource Protection — includes maintaining water supplies, preserving water quality, filtration of wastewater and enhancing air quality. These may also include corridors for drainageways and utility rights-of-way as well as attenuating noise along highways or security zones around airports or military reserves.

G.1.3 View Preservation — protects scenic views and important visual backdrops. Scenic roadways provide a sense of place with their natural, historic, or cultural significance. Similarly, scenic waterways are designated areas at key locations that afford users an opportunity to view significant waterways, water features and wildlife habitat.





Hazards from flooding are significantly mitigated by locating greenspace corridors along floodplains. The flooding associated with hurricanes of 2005 exemplifies the dangers of improper planning.

G.1.4 Solace and Link to Nature — provides accessible places for relaxation, contemplation and quiet. (Studies show that both physical and mental health improve where urban dwellers have access to “green spaces” and natural areas.)

G.1.5 Health and Fitness — offers accessible places that promote and facilitate passive recreational uses such as hiking, biking, and jogging.

G.1.6 Access and Linkage — provides residents access to greenspaces and open space networks (greenways). Links open spaces together into contiguous functioning networks and systems.

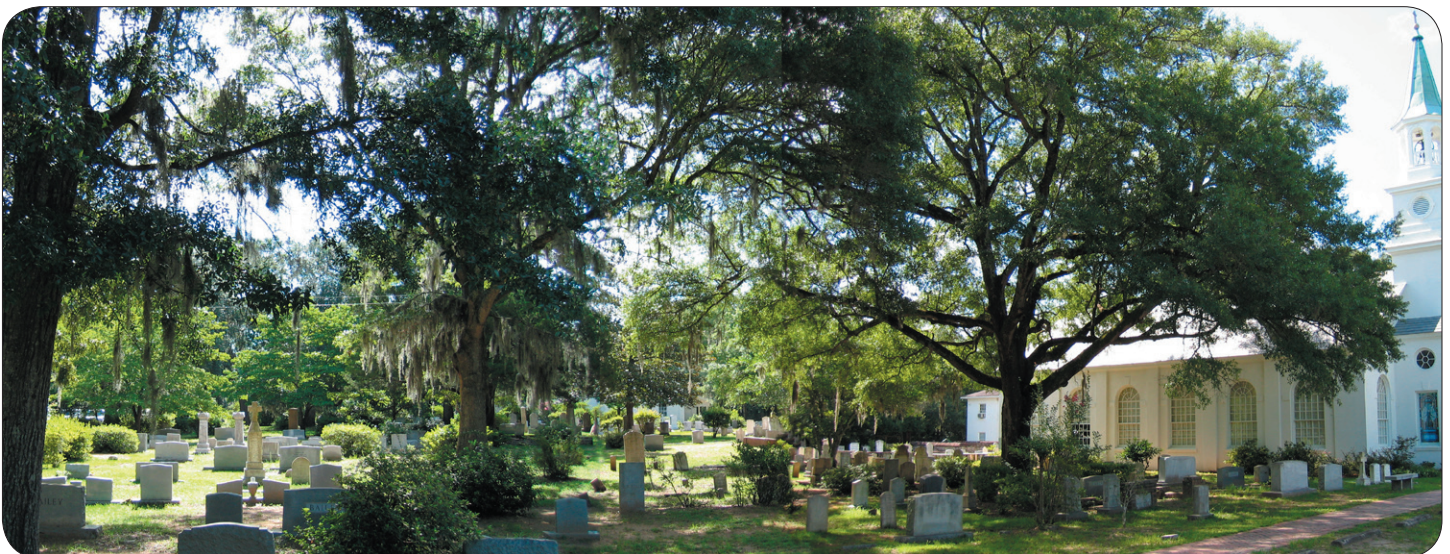
G.1.7 Wildlife Protection — conserves diverse and healthy biological systems including both flora and fauna.

G.1.8 Special Landscape Preservation — protects unique and irreplaceable landscapes, geological formations, cultural resources and sacred places.

G.1.9 Agricultural Lands Preservation — protects existing and potential future agricultural resources including working croplands and timberlands.

G.1.10 Economic Value — provides economic benefits as a result of preservation including tourism, property value protection and enhancement and attracting business and industry.

G.1.11 Community Identity and Character — shapes and defines urban form including relief from urban sprawl, separation of large urban expanses and creating a sense of readily accessible (or viewable) open space from residences and businesses.



Preserving cultural and historic landscapes is one of many functions of greenspace.