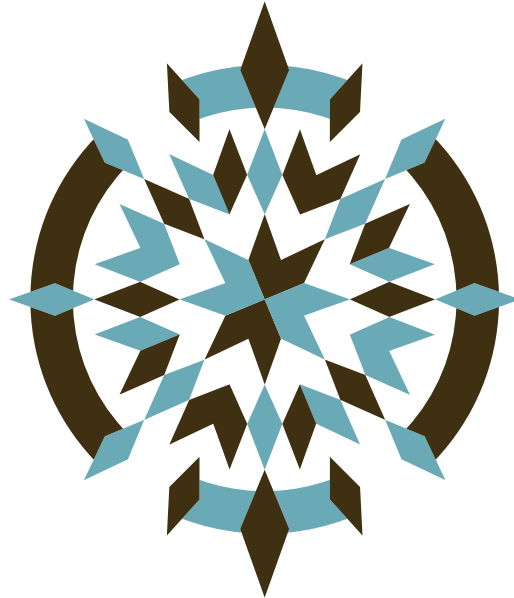

CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL
MASTER PLAN
FOR CHESTER COUNTY
COMMUNITIES



**CAROLINA
THREAD
TRAIL**

*Weaving
Communities
Together*

MAY 2009



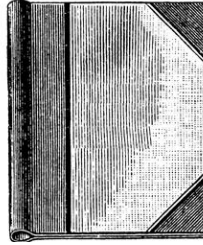


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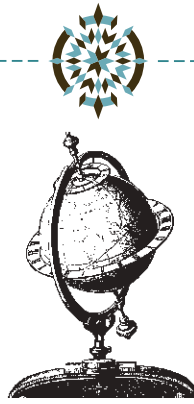
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The following organizations signed resolutions of support at the outset of this effort to work with neighboring communities and with the Carolina Thread Trail to plan, design, and build trails that will connect our communities:

City of Chester

Chester Area United Way

Chester County

Chester County Chamber of Commerce

Chester County Friends of the Animals

Chester County Historical Society

Chester Development Association

Chester Healthcare Foundation

Chester Rotary Club

Chester County YMCA

Chester County Zoning Board of Appeals

Greater Richburg Association

Katawba Valley Land Trust

Lewisville Preservation Society

Olde English District Tourism Commission

Rodman Oak Grove Community Center

Town of Fort Lawn

Town of Great Falls

Town of Richburg

*Chester County Communities
Carolina Thread Trail Steering Committee Members:*

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines a means for long-term coordination of greenway and trail development within the county, city and towns in Chester County to help promote the preservation and continued improvement of the residents' quality of life. It presents a first-ever plan to integrate all existing and proposed municipal and county trails with additional greenway/trail segments that will together create a comprehensive multi-use network for connecting people, places and destinations to each other and surrounding counties.

This plan is the outcome of a year-long public process spearheaded by the Carolina Thread Trail initiative and supervised by a steering committee of representatives from municipal and county governments as well as interested organizations, businesses and individuals. The Carolina Thread Trail's mission is to bring resources to the 15 county region in the south-central piedmont of North Carolina and the north-central portion of South Carolina in order to create an interconnected trail system with major regional trails designated as The Carolina Thread Trail.

The **outcome** of the planning process is a map that includes all trails recommended to local governments for inclusion in their trail and greenway plans, as applicable (See Figure A). Trails displayed in purple are those recommended for the Carolina Thread Trail designation and trails in yellow are presented for consideration by local communities wishing to augment or create trail plans to further tie together the people and destinations of Chester County communities.

Together, this map includes 130 miles of existing and potential trails. The routes featured on these maps are 1/4 mile wide because actual trail alignment will depend upon existing conditions, including the availability of land, rights-of-way, landowner interest and future opportunities. **Actual trails are likely to be between 6 – 12 feet wide.**

It is well understood that building a trail system of this scale is no small undertaking. Segments will likely be built one-by-one, and adjustments will be made to the proposed routes as circumstances change and more information becomes available. Similarly, trail development will follow through various arrangements with multiple funding partners. Nevertheless, the following actions are recommended to take this plan from concept to reality in an intentional, coordinated, fair and transparent way, consistent with the planning to date:

ADOPT THE PLAN

Local governments can adopt this plan to serve as a guideline for developing future proposed connections without committing themselves to funding plan implementation themselves. The adoption procedures vary from community to community depending on existing plans and policies. In each jurisdiction, the planning board (as applicable) should review and recommend to the governing bodies, which in turn must consider, make additional adjustments as needed, and officially incorporate the trail into their land-use plans. It is recommended that regulations be amended to have developers set aside land for trails whenever a development proposal overlaps with the proposed routes, as adopted.

BUILD PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR TRAIL IMPLEMENTATION

Advocacy from individuals with a personal and professional interest in these topics is essential. A Trail Advisory Committee should be formed for these leaders to discuss and celebrate progress with public events, share resources/tools, and otherwise coordinate trail planning and development activities. Other organizations can assist in



identifying viable trail opportunities and working with willing landowners to build support and interest in trails and greenways. For example, early collaboration with the arts community as well as county schools and colleges will encourage more partners to become vested in local greenways and the Carolina Thread Trail project.

COMPLETE TOP PRIORITY SEGMENTS

With an eye for “readiness,” the steering committee suggests Chester County communities work on acquiring and building segments of trail that will connect destinations identified by public with broad support, among other factors. With a caveat that more research is needed into feasibility and that circumstances can change, the committee suggests that the following offer opportunities for priority implementation: (A) Southern Segment of the proposed Catawba River Trail: Starting in Great Falls and heading north along the abandoned rail corridor for 6.3 miles total, (B) Lowrys Segment that starts at the York County border and goes south around Oliphant Lake for a total 6.7 miles, and (C) Northern Segment of the proposed Catawba River Trail: Starting at the York County border and heading south to reach and continue through Landsford Canal State Park, for a total of 7.6 miles. Communities that are not listed may become priorities as they build support and identify opportunities to work with landowners.

KNIT TOGETHER FUNDING FROM A VARIETY OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SOURCES

Trail networks are generally funded by piecing together funding from multiple sources, creating a “funding quilt.” This plan lists local, state, federal and other funding sources, many of which local communities will need to acquire land, construct trails, and operate and maintain these facilities and amenities. The

Carolina Thread Trail organization, housed within the Catawba Lands Conservancy, can provide assistance with funding strategies, as well as potential catalytic seed funding for planning and implementation from its private capital campaign.

EVALUATE LAND OR RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION OPTIONS

Where public land is not already available or private developers are not already building trails along the planned trail route, conversations with private landowners are recommended to assess their interest in trails through their communities. This will assist with route feasibility and alignment.

DESIGN, CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN TRAILS

Communities should work through a public process to determine intended use of the particular segment at issue, and design with that in mind, as well as safety and affordable maintenance.

CONCLUSION

The University of North Carolina Charlotte Urban Institute recently found that the 15-county region surrounding Charlotte and including Chester County is losing open space at a rate of forty-one acres per day. There’s not only a risk but also a reality of losing public open space and recreational opportunities. The time is now to create trails that will provide recreational, educational and economic development opportunities, and promote healthy lifestyles while engaging citizens in Chester County communities through public access and increasing the community’s connection to the region’s vital natural resources.

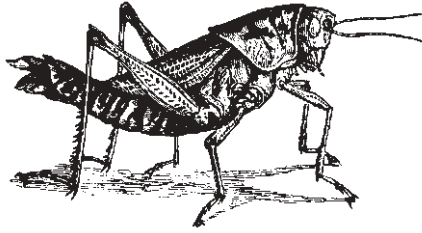
COMMUNITY INPUT



COMMUNITY INPUT



With a key guiding principle of the Carolina Thread Trail being Community Self-Determination, the master planning process was infused with citizen input from all over the county.



CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

With oversight provided by a steering committee of municipal, county and interested non-governmental organizations, residents in Chester County, South Carolina, participated in a locally-driven process to create this Greenway Master Plan. This plan is meant to serve as a guiding document for greenway and trail development within the county, cities and towns in Chester County.

The Master Plan includes an introduction to the benefits of greenways and trails, a description of current conditions in Chester County, a summary of the planning process undertaken, a concept map for a network of greenways and trails throughout the county, introduction to the Carolina Thread Trail (CTT) and proposed route, and a description of recommended implementation steps. These action steps are intended to provide ideas for local governments to fund segments and expeditiously put them on the ground.

The Carolina Thread Trail initiative, which has helped to spur the development of this plan, is an effort to encourage 15 counties in the south-central piedmont of North Carolina and the north-central portion of South Carolina to create a large, interconnected trail system that will preserve and increase the quality of life within the local communities. This plan presents a conceptual route for trails throughout the county, some of which will receive the CTT designation. Lands to be incorporated can include prime farmland, wildlife habitat, environmentally fragile lands, open fields and forests.

In general, a greenway is a linear corridor of undeveloped land preserved for recreational use, transportation or environmental protection. A trail is a linear route on land or water with protected status and public access typically for recreation or transportation purposes. For the sake of brevity, the word “trail” will be used throughout this plan to encompass both types of amenities.

CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL

The Carolina Thread Trail is a regional network of greenways, trails and conserved land that will reach approximately 2.3 million citizens. It will link people, places, cities, towns and attractions. The Thread will help preserve our natural areas and will be a place for the exploration of nature, culture, science and history, for family adventures and celebrations of friendship. It will be for young, old, athlete and average. This is a landmark project, and creates a legacy that will give so much, to so many, for so long.

The scale of The Thread’s connectivity is unparalleled and is based on certain guiding principles and core values: Collaboration, Community Self-Determination, Connectivity, Inclusivity, Leverage, and Respect for the Land and Landowners.

COLLABORATION AND SELF-DETERMINATION

Collaboration and communication among the Chester County communities is almost as important as connectivity. The Master Plan aims to encourage a collaborative process by which greenways are conceived and designed in cooperation with adjoining communities in such a way that a regional asset is created out of a series of interrelated local decisions and actions.

CONNECTIVITY AND INCLUSIVITY

Creating connections between communities and historical, cultural and recreational attractions is important. The Carolina Thread Trail seeks to create a region known for its “ribbons of green” connecting people to each other and to their heritage. In offering the vision of greater community interaction, the program seeks to build bonds among diverse neighborhoods, as well as afford all residents greater access to our natural surroundings. Through this Master Plan, these goals are established.



LEVERAGE

The Plan's success depends upon generating additional investment of outside capital in our region's natural resources. Funding sources of the local, state and federal level are included in Chapter 5.

RESPECT FOR THE LAND AND LANDOWNERS

During the planning process, Chester County communities determined the location of their segments of The Thread by having alternative routes to consider that included public lands or property owned by willing landholders, including developers who may want to offer this amenity to their neighborhoods. The broad corridors featured present multiple opportunities and adjustments to the route can be incorporated as more landowners are engaged. Expert trail builders indicate that trails are built by assimilating parcels over time in this fashion and that eminent domain is very rarely used. Furthermore, county officials have stated that

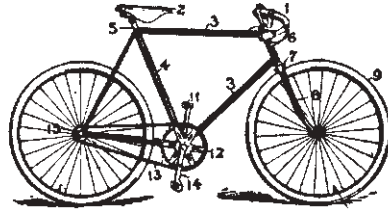
eminent domain will not be used in Chester County.

Through an inclusive, collaborative process, each county and the communities within that county decide where their local trail systems will connect and become part of The Thread. However, not all local trails and greenways will become part of the Carolina Thread Trail. Analogous to our highway systems, The Thread will develop as a "green interstate" focused on linking local trails and regionally significant attractions. Other trails will continue to exist or be planned but may not receive the Carolina Thread Trail designation. Local trails will retain their own identities, whether or not they are designated as part of The Thread.

The look and feel of the Carolina Thread Trail may vary from community to community and county to county. Designation as the Carolina Thread Trail will signify that a particular trail is part of a plan to create an interconnected system, a plan created by local communities working together with their neighbors to identify connection points and to build trails that will grow together over time.



House on York Road near Lowrys, SC



CHAPTER 2. GREENWAY BENEFITS

Trails not only encourage friends, families and communities to interact with each other and nature, they also provide a venue for physical activities such as walking, jogging, running, skating and biking. The benefits of these activities are significant and far reaching.

HEALTH

A landmark report by the U.S. Surgeon General found that “Americans can substantially improve their health and quality of life by including moderate amounts of physical activity in their daily lives.”¹ It also found that “health benefits appear to be proportional to the amount of activity; thus, every increase in activity adds some benefit.” Several studies have found that access to public green spaces increases physical activity levels.

A growing body of research suggests that mere contact with the natural world improves psychological health. Green settings have been shown to relieve feelings of anxiety and improve our ability to cope with stressful situations. In some cases, natural spaces provide therapy for conditions such as Attention Deficit Disorder and improve cognitive function and work performance. In addition, greenways, trails and parks provide safe places for kids to play, which is vital in the brain development of young children.

Trails also provide safe routes for pedestrians and bicyclists to travel. This separation from traffic can reduce the number of vehicle-pedestrian and vehicle-bicyclist related accidents.

ECONOMIC

The economic benefits of The Thread to Chester County will be numerous. According to an economic impact study completed by Econsult, Inc. and Greenways, Inc. in February 2007 (with funding from the Women’s Impact

Fund), homes in the affected area of the Carolina Thread Trail are estimated to increase at least 4% in value. Chester County trails are expected to not only bring new visitors and tourists to the region and inject new dollars into the local economy, but also promote connectivity between tourist destinations for visitors, as well as local residents.

Including development costs, the construction investment over the next 15-year period throughout the 15-county region for The Thread alone is estimated at over \$100 million. This investment will generate significant economic benefits, including jobs for the local communities and the region.

Information from industry professionals and site selection firms supports the significance of greenspace and trails for business development and attraction. Chester trails will create a strong draw for young professionals choosing to reside in or relocate to the area.

ENVIRONMENTAL

The establishment of trails can restore natural corridors within already densely populated regions and preserve them in areas soon to be developed. This is particularly important in rapidly growing areas like the Charlotte region where substantial growth can be positive from an economic standpoint, but it places a very serious strain on the area’s natural resources such as water and air quality, open space and wildlife habitats.

If current growth trends continue, treasured natural areas will disappear as vast tracts of land are developed into urban areas in the next twenty years. It is critical that our communities band together now to help preserve natural areas for the health and sustainability of future generations.

Green space created by these natural corridors helps to mitigate storm-water runoff and encourages water table recharge. It also serves as a natural filter, trapping pollutants



from urban runoff, eroding areas and agricultural lands in order to keep our water supplies healthy.

Tree cover provided by these trails contributes to air quality by removing substantial amounts of particulate matter and carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Trails also encourage non-motorized means of transportation, which can significantly reduce air pollutants derived from mobile sources, such as automobiles. Reducing overall vehicle-miles traveled (VMT) will help to decrease the amount of pollutants emitted that contribute to formation of ozone in the atmosphere. Projects like the Carolina Thread Trail will enhance the pedestrian environment and facilitate walking and biking, which is a critical component to making emissions reductions. The net benefits to the community are the reduced levels of VMT, which leads to reduced pollutants, thus making the air safer to breathe.

Greenways, trails and conservation corridors help to preserve habitat for many plants, insects and animals that are so important and unique to this region. Creative interpretation of specific environmental attributes throughout the trail system will educate the casual visitor and inspire continued environmental stewardship. Conserving the natural environment that surrounds us is an important piece of the legacy that we will leave behind for our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

CULTURAL

Because the emphasis is on empowering local communities and weaving them together, The Thread could be considered a “civic engagement project dressed in greenway clothes” and will help to build stronger communities in many ways.

The Thread will provide connections for adjoining neighborhoods and social centers such as schools, churches,

cultural institutions and other community facilities. It will help to reinforce the identity of neighborhoods through greenway design by incorporating public art, recognizing local history, and creating landmark open spaces.

As a free, accessible community asset, The Thread will offer opportunities for recreation and exercise to everyone, including children, youth and families who might not be able to afford them elsewhere. They also provide a safe place for people to experience a sense of community and create stronger social and familial ties.

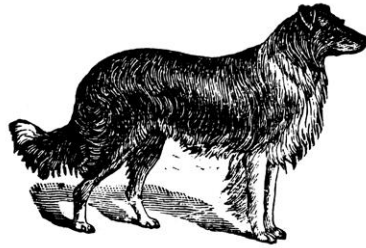
By preserving green spaces from development, The Thread will provide safe places for our children to play outside with others from surrounding communities and create awareness of each other, as well as of the natural world.

As a tangible project that links people and places, The Thread will encourage communities, leaders and municipalities to build partnerships. It will provide a framework and “pathway” for future regional initiatives and will encourage communities to act locally while thinking regionally.

TRANSPORTATION

Trails serve as highways for alternate means of transportation. As gas prices rise, commuters will be looking for transportation alternatives. If given the option, more people would use trails and greenways to commute. The Carolina Thread Trail and local Chester County trails will give citizens this option.

According to a 1990 National Personal Transportation Survey, more than half of all commuter trips and three out of four shopping trips are less than five miles in length (ideal for bicycling), with forty percent of all trips being less than two miles. Persons who would ordinarily drive to these places will be presented with another mode of travel, thus



CHAPTER 3. EXISTING CONDITIONS

Chester County, South Carolina is located in the Piedmont Region of north-central South Carolina. Indian tribes were the first settlers of the region for several thousand years, and the Catawba and Cherokee were the main tribes of the area. As settlers from Europe immigrated to the region in the 1760s, the Indians were pushed west and farming as well as trading flourished along the King’s Highway northern route and the Broad and Catawba Rivers. Chester County played a significant role in the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. Railroad crossings made Chester a transportation hub for the region in the late 1800s. Awareness of the history of Chester County plus the rural nature of the region has built a strong sense of community for the residents of Chester County.

In total, the county has five incorporated municipalities. The county seat is the City of Chester, which was founded on a hill with “scenic views of interest in many directions. Historic downtown Chester has become a favorite spot for filming movies, television shows, and commercials”² because of the number of original buildings in the downtown area. Throughout the county there is a small town feel, which most residents would like to keep as the county plans for the future.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Between 1990 and 2000 Chester County’s population grew by 5.9 percent. Compared to the surrounding counties this was a mild growth rate.³ However, between 2000 and 2006 Chester County experienced a loss in population, with a negative 4 percent growth rate. During this time Great Falls lost six percent of its population; the cities of Chester, Richburg, and Fort Lawn lost five percent of their populations; and Lowrys lost 4 percent (Table 1). Some of this loss can be attributed to the fact that farming began to decline in the late 1950s and textile mills began closing in the 1980s. The county now struggles to bring in new industry.⁴

Table 1:

Population Growth between 2000 and 2007

	2000	2006	% Increase
Chester County	34,068	32,875	-4%
Chester City	6,476	6,123	-5%
Fort Lawn	864	822	-5%
Great Falls	2,194	2,069	-6%
Lowrys	207	199	-4%
Richburg	332	317	-5%

Source: U.S Census - 2006 figures are based on estimates

There was an increase in housing unit growth for all municipalities between 1990-2000, except for the City of Chester, which experienced a slight decrease in new housing units.⁵ Overall there were 14,773 housing units in 2006, a 3 percent increase since 2000.⁶

Data from 2005 shows that 60.8 percent of the population identified themselves as white, 38.2 percent as African-American, and 1 percent as other. The Hispanic-Latino population (of any race) in Chester County increased by 20 percent between 2000 and 2005.⁷

Despite the recent retraction in population growth, Chester County is expected to grow by 6 percent between 2006 and 2010.⁸ Projected growth is estimated to occur along S.C. Highway 9 from the City of Chester east toward the Town of Fort Lawn.⁹

ECONOMY

The textile and agricultural industries have historically been the driving economic forces in the county. In the 1960s approximately 90 percent of all manufacturing employment in Chester County was in the textile industry. However, by 1990, the industry accounted for approximately 53 percent of manufacturing jobs.¹⁰ This decline has affected the entire county. The agriculture industry experienced losses in the



late 1980s, which also contributed to unemployment.

Table 2 shows that in 2000 Chester County had an unemployment rate of approximately 7 percent and by 2007 it had risen to 11 percent. Compared to its neighbors Chester County is the lowest when measured by median household income, and unemployment (Table 3).

Table 2:
Unemployment Rates

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2006	2007
Chester	7%	9%	12%	13%	10%	11%
Lancaster	4%	5%	7%	10%	9%	10%
York	4%	5%	6%	8%	6%	6%
South Carolina	4%	5%	6%	6%	6%	6%

Source: SC Employment Security Commission and Bureau of Labor Statistics

Table 3:
An Economic View of Chester County and the Metropolitan Area

	Median Household Income*	Unemployment Rate**
Chester, SC	\$38,523	11.2%
Lancaster, SC	\$41,213	9.5%
York, SC	\$52,872	5.6%
Union, NC	\$61,904	4%
Mecklenburg, NC	\$63,277	4.5%
Gaston, NC	\$40,952	5.5%

*Source is ESRI 2006 (Charlotte Regional Partnership)

**SC unemployment rates are 2007 estimates from S.C. Association of Counties and NC figures are from the Dept. of Commerce

In recent years there has been an effort to recruit more major manufacturing and distribution facilities to compensate for the loss of employment.¹¹ The Chester County Economic Development program was created “to spearhead the efforts to enhance the economic growth of the county.”¹²

As of 2007 top employers in the county were in county government, education, timber, medical, manufacturing and construction. There is one public school district that serves the entire county and school facilities are located in Chester, Richburg, and Great Falls.¹³ There is an 82-bed community hospital, located in the City of Chester, while larger facilities are in Rock Hill, Charlotte or Columbia.¹⁴ There are also three assisted living facilities in the county and one nursing home in the City of Chester. A list of top employers is provided in Table 4.

Table 4:
Top Employers in Chester County¹⁵

Employer	Industry
Chester County School	Education
Owens Corning	Manufacturing
Chester Regional Medical Center	Medical
Chester Wood Products, LLC	Manufacturing
Chester County	Government
Guardian Industries Corporation	Manufacturing
United Contractors, Inc.	Construction

*Source is ESRI 2006 (Charlotte Regional Partnership)

**SC unemployment rates are 2007 estimates from S.C. Association of Counties and NC figures are from the Dept. of Commerce

Many residents are commuting long distances to work outside of the county. In 2005, almost half of employed Chester County residents commuted to work in neighboring counties.¹⁶

Looking into the future, Chester County believes Interstate 77 – running north/south from Ohio to South Carolina – will play a vital role in contributing to the economic development of the area because it has become a “major route connecting the Midwestern states with the southern coast and Florida.”¹⁷ U.S. 321 is a north-south route – passing through Lowrys and the City of Chester – that connects Tennessee and the coast.¹⁸



Chester County's communities are also developing plans to market nature-based tourism and agri-tourism as ways to develop the economy. For example, Great Falls Hometown Association is "working with land owners and private conservation groups to encourage a program of nature-based tourism which will take advantage of the scenic attributes in the Great Falls area."¹⁹

LAND USE

Chester County sits among rolling hills with elevations ranging from 300 to 700 feet above sea level. The total surface area is 585.48 square miles, which includes about five square miles of surface water.²⁰ Three scenic water resources are Oliphant Lake and Mountain Lake located in residential areas, and the Catawba River that divides Chester County from Lancaster County. Geologically speaking, the county is comprised of older metamorphosed sedimentary and volcanic rocks. Resource extractive industries consist of the removal of gravel and sand from streambeds and removal of clay from pits.²¹ Soil conditions vary throughout the county, including severe erosion problems in some areas as a result of poor farming practices and steep slopes.²²

Agriculture and forestry practices as well as urban development have impacted much of the landscape in the county. By 2001, landcover across the county was as follows: 66 percent forest, 15 percent agriculture (includes crops and pastureland), 9 percent grasslands, and about 6 percent of Chester County had been developed.²³ Private timber companies own a large portion of the county, and there are also large private individual owners of forestland.²⁴ According to South Carolina Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 436 farms in Chester County in 1997, averaging about 208 acres and as of 2002 there were 430 farms, averaging about 226 acres.²⁵

According to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Chester County has ten species that are of state concern of being threatened. Bald eagles also nest in Chester County, and they are listed as both state endangered and federally threatened. The Carolina Heelsplitter, a freshwater mussel is listed as both state and federally endangered.²⁶

Beyond having rare and endangered species, there are many important natural areas in Chester County. For example, two natural areas deemed "significant" by the South Carolina Division of Nongame and Endangered Species and Department of Wildlife and Marine Resources are the Piedmont bottomland hardwood forest located along the Broad River and the shoals in the Catawba River near Landsford State Canal Park. The former is thought to contain one of the largest populations of Rocky Shoals Spider Lilies in the world. This plant grows only in the shoals of the Piedmont Rivers and its habitat has been diminished by the construction of dams in the area.²⁷

According to the Chester County Comprehensive Plan, Chester County plans to continue to devote the "bulk of land" to open space as "the preservation of open spaces will help to maintain the rural character of Chester County. Agricultural uses, while not a major factor in employment, continue to be important to the economy of the county [and] prime soils for farming should be preserved so that they will be available in future years."²⁸ According to Clemson University's Department of Applied Economic & Statistics, Chester County's crop and livestock production contributed almost \$17 million to the local economy in 2007.

EXISTING PARKS AND TRAILS²⁹

Park and recreation needs are currently being met largely through facilities and resources offered by municipalities and the state and federal government.



The county operates a walking trail at the Chester Park Elementary School, which provides paved surface for .9 mile. Since 2005, when the Chester County Comprehensive Plan was adopted, the county has been in the process of creating a Recreation Commission.³⁰ The Catawba River Canoe trail is also noteworthy because it is a 30-mile stretch of river that remains un-dammed. A portion of this blueway trail runs through the county and passes by several historic landmarks.³¹ Municipalities, the state and the federal government operate the following parks and trails.

The City of Chester operates urban parks that offer a variety of recreation opportunities such as basketball courts, volleyball courts, and playgrounds. The parks are as follows: Jackson James, Frank Connor, Finley Park, Hughes/Bagwell, Jones Adair, Wylie Park, George B. Guy, Brooklyn Park and the Chester Fairgrounds.³² The only trails in the city are in Wylie Park, which also has a multi-use recreation complex. The nature trail and walking trail, combined, is 1 mile long. The walking trail is a paved road and was once used for driving. It is about .75 mile long.³³

The Town of Great Falls operates two walking trails. One is a natural trail that is .3 mile long and the other is the Rocky Creek Trail, which is 2 miles long.

The Town of Lowrys operates a “Fitness Trail” that is 2 miles long on a natural surface.

The Town of Richburg operates a community park that is unique for its saddle-tank steam locomotive display. It also offers picnic shelters, basketball and tennis courts as well as a playground.

The community of Rodman has a wooded nature trail at the Rodman Community Center that is .25 mile long.

The State of South Carolina operates two state parks in Chester County – the Lansford Canal State Park and Chester State Park. Chester State Park is located southwest of the City of Chester on 523 acres with a lake. Lansford is on the Catawba River in the northeastern portion of the county on 200 acres. It contains the remains of the Lansford Canal, which dates back to the 1820s.³⁴ The county’s comprehensive plan notes that if development were to happen in these areas it would have a negative impact on the qualities that these parks seek to preserve.³⁵

Chester State Park contains Caney Fork Fall Trail, which is 1.3 miles long. There are three walking trails in Lansford Canal State Park: Canal Trail is 1.5 miles long; Eagle Trail is .2 mile long; and there is also a nature trail that is .5 mile long.

In addition, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources operates a trail circling Oliphant Lake.³⁶

In 2000 South Carolina updated its “Bicycle Touring Guide,” which is available online and managed by the Department of Transportation. The guide’s authors were careful to point out that, “the inclusion of any route in this guide does not certify it as a “safe bicycling route.” One of these routes, the “Central Route” runs north/south, connecting Kings Mountain State Park, in York County to several landmarks in Chester County, including Chester State Park before it continues south, ending at Redcliffe Plantation State Historic Site near the Georgia border.

The United States Government operates Sumter National Forest, the largest public park in Chester County. This forest encompasses the extreme western section of the county along the Broad River and is managed for timber production, wildlife protection, and public recreation. Located within the forest is the Woods Ferry Recreation Area which provides public access and a variety of recreational



activities, including a 9 mile natural surface trail.³⁷

DESTINATIONS

Citizens of Chester County currently drive, walk or bike to numerous destinations throughout the community. Whether traveling from home to work, to school or to shopping, it is important to make some of these connections available by way of the proposed county-wide greenway system. Through public input sessions that were held in 2008, the following destinations were mentioned most frequently. A full list can be found in Appendix I.

Towns, parks and cultural/recreation/historic places in Chester County:

- Great Falls
- Chester (historic downtown)
- Lowrys
- Landsford Canal State Park
- Chester State Park
- Sumter National Forest
- Woods Ferry Recreation Area (horse accommodations)
- Mount Dearborn (future State Park) on Dearborn Island
- Brainerd Institute (Chester)
- Chester Airport and Carolina Skydiving
- Lando Manetta Museum
- Bechamville Battlefield Site (Great Falls)

In other counties:

- Historic Brattonsville
- Kings Mountain State Park
- Connection to Appalachian Trail and Palmetto Trail

Water-related:

- Catawba River
- Broad River
- Islands in the Catawba River
- Oliphant Lake

Other important public facilities that could possibly be linked up by a trail system is the York Technical College, which has a satellite operation in Chester as well as University of South Carolina, which has campuses in Lancaster and Union Counties.³⁸

CHESTER COUNTY PLANNING DOCUMENTS

The county's comprehensive plan is the guiding document for parks and greenways improvements in the county. The City of Great Falls and the City of Chester are the only two municipalities with current comprehensive plans also outlining park and recreation needs. The Great Falls plan recommends fully implementing a system of trails and recreation opportunities.

As part of plan preparation, in 2005 the City of Chester conducted a needs assessment survey. It revealed that residents most desire walking/jogging/biking paths, which scored the highest from among eighteen possible recreational facilities described (87% of respondents consider them important). Hiking trails and open space also scored high, with 77% and 65% of respondents considering them important, respectively.

The planning documents share some of the same goals in regards to planning for open space and greenways. One is the desire to build community facilities and infrastructure into the pattern of land uses. They identify the Catawba and Broad Rivers as possible linkages to a trail system. Great Falls' plan offers specific detail on ideal trail opportunities.

The Land Development Regulation Ordinance in the county limits development in subdivisions and creates opportunities for a proposed greenway. Each municipality is encouraged to amend their development codes to require greenway land dedications in order to achieve a trail network across the county.



CHAPTER 4. PROPOSED TRAIL NETWORKS

PLANNING PROCESS

What follows is a description of the planning process chronology for Chester County communities that resulted in the recommended conceptual route featured in this plan.

January 2008: A steering committee with representation from the county; local cities and towns; and local cultural resource conservation organizations met to agree upon a process for developing cross-county trail connections and a preferred Carolina Thread Trail route in Chester County that would maximize community input.

October 2008: There were three community listening sessions across Chester County. About 50 residents identified destinations they wanted to connect, explained what they would like to see along trails, and voiced concerns. Namely, they were interested in maximizing outreach and putting safe trail legs on the ground at a low cost and with willing landowners. Appendix I contains a summary of public input received.

November 2008: A technical team of local experts used GIS software to map alternative routes for trails. They sought to develop scenarios that would minimize concerns identified by residents, maximize connections identified in the community listening sessions, and provide equitable trail access to people of all backgrounds.

January 2009: Representatives from the surrounding counties were invited to view alternative scenarios and advise on the best way for trails to cross into neighboring counties.

February 2009: Alternative scenarios were unveiled in three public open houses and participants were asked to recommend segments for inclusion in the CTT route through Chester County. Members of the public were also invited to

view these scenarios by dropping in during a one-week period at the Chester County government building. Community survey results are summarized in Appendix II. About 130 people attended the open houses, and around 45 people signed-in at the government building the following week.

March 2009: Volunteers worked to groundtruth proposed segments where impediments and opportunities were not well known,³⁹ to assess whether these segments were aesthetically pleasing and physically feasible.

April 2009: The Chester County Steering Committee evaluated community input and agreed upon preferred Thread Trail connections and other trails for Chester County to recommend in this plan. They considered the following criteria to select routes (listed in no particular order):

- connecting destinations identified by public
- providing maximum access to residents
- utilizing existing physical opportunities
- adjacency to an existing or planned trail
- trail planning already completed
- geographic and demographic distribution parity
- likely public funding availability
- best opportunities for long term maintenance arrangements
- location of willing landowners
- low construction costs
- readiness/political will

GREENWAY MASTER PLAN

Figure A represents all of the trails designated during this planning process. This map includes 130 miles of existing and potential new trails to create a comprehensive network across Chester County. About 65 of these would be Carolina



Thread Trail miles and about 65 would be other city and county trails. The Thread miles, designated with a purple line, are described in more detail below.



The other county trails, demarcated with a grey/green line, would serve about 15% of county residents (be located within 1/4 mile of where they live), passing through nearly 12 miles of existing parks and connecting many significant destinations: Sumter National Forest, Woods Ferry Recreation Area, Fishdam Ford Battle Site, Chester State Park, Wylie Park, the City of Chester, the future Olde English Visitors Center, Lando Manetta Museum, Landsford Canal State Park, and the Catawba River. It is anticipated that most of these connections (70%) would be made via a trail along a road right-of-way.

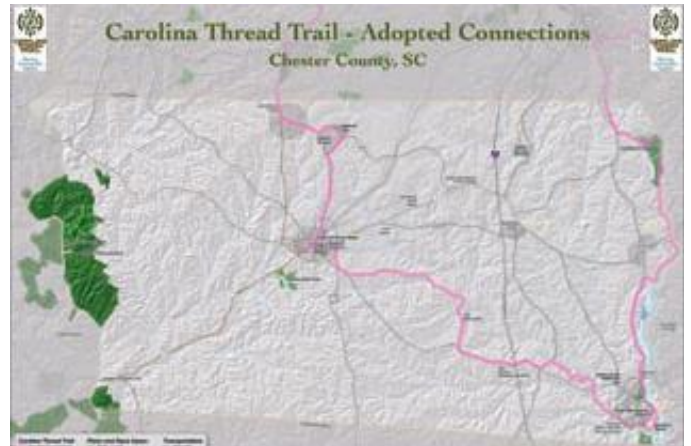
CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL ROUTES

Figure B represents the trails that were considered to be regionally significant, therefore qualifying for the Carolina Thread Trail designation. Analogous to our highway systems, The Thread will develop as a “green interstate” focused on linking local trails and regionally significant attractions.

The proposed conceptual route featured in **Figure B** (See page 55) is the 1/4 mile wide purple line that weaves 65 miles through the county and connects to 15 regional destinations:

Cotton Hills Farm, Oliphant Lake, Chester Airport, York Technical College, The Transportation Museum, the Brainerd Institute, Chester Historic District, TNT Motorsports, Gristmill Historic Site and Carriage Factory, Dearborn Island, Great Falls Historic District, Nitrolee, the Catawba River, and Landsford Canal State Park. The Trail also weaves through 9.3 miles of existing parks.

This conceptual route includes about 4 miles of existing trails, and it incorporates 3 miles of trails that were already proposed



by local governments in Chester County. So about 10% of the proposed Carolina Thread Trail conceptual route was derived from pre-existing trails and plans, and almost 90% – 58 miles – is newly proposed trails. These are trail routes that are brand new to the county and municipalities within Chester County. About 30 miles would be along road rights-of-way, 15 miles along streams and river corridors, 7 miles along rail corridors, almost 4 miles on sidewalks, 1 mile on utility rights-of-way, and another short segment that would cut through forested land near Oliphant Lake.

Three of the five municipalities in the county would be connected by The Thread: Chester, Great Falls, and Lowrys. Over 40 percent of all county residents live within 1/2 mile of the proposed trail route (13,600 out of about 33,000). About 40 percent of all seniors and children and 45 percent of all low income households live within a half mile of the proposed Thread route.



CHAPTER 5. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

A table summarizing the following recommendations is provided in **Appendix III**.

ADOPT THE PLAN

The adoption procedures vary from community to community depending on existing plans and policies. In each jurisdiction, the planning board (as applicable) should review and recommend the plan to its governing body, which in turn should consider, make additional adjustments as needed, and officially incorporate the trail into its land-use plans.

An analysis of the planning documents shows that the local governments repeatedly mention adopting policies to create incentives and regulations to promote the development of greenways. It is recommended that local regulations be amended to ensure that, as developments are planned and reviewed, adequate open space and greenway corridors identified by this plan are protected. This would entail amending zoning or subdivision ordinances to have developers set aside land for trails whenever a development proposal overlaps with the proposed routes, as adopted. The trail dedication language should require dedication of trail easements that reinforce the contiguous route identified on adopted trail maps (while also encouraging them to construct the trails), and may permit payment in-lieu for certain circumstances. As an example, see Rock Hill, South Carolina's Zoning Ordinance, Article 6 (Development and Design Standards), Section 6-600: General Open Space Standards.

Phase I (Plan Adoption)

Priority

Review and recommendation(s) by any municipalities' advisory Board(s)	High
Review and adoption of the Greenway Master Plan by the governing board(s)	High
Consider reviewing and amending the current zoning, subdivision, or unified development ordinance to require dedication of trail easements for new development	Medium
Consider reviewing and amending the floodplain ordinance to strictly limit the construction of structures in floodplains	Medium
Consider reviewing and amending the zoning, subdivision, or unified development ordinance to protect riparian buffer corridors	Medium
Consider reviewing the current open space and land dedication requirement(s) and payment in lieu policies/ordinances	Medium

High Priority- Within 1 Year

Medium Priority- Within 2-5 Years

Low Priority- Within 6-10 Years

BUILD PUBLIC SUPPORT

Leadership from individuals in Chester County communities during the adoption and implementation campaign is essential to move the trail from concept to reality. These individuals will help advocate for the trail, and in their professional and personal capacity will seek out opportunities to utilize synergies with other projects, individuals and organizations to keep the trail as a priority in the ever-present competition for resources.

It is advised that Catawba Regional Council of Governments assist in reconstituting the steering committee from the planning process as a Trail Advisory Committee and new leaders be invited to join, with an eye towards accomplishing the tasks that lie ahead. The Trail Advisory Committee should be a forum for leaders to convene periodically to discuss progress, share



resources/tools, and otherwise coordinate trail planning and development activities. The group should brainstorm specific benchmarks to track, and honor their completion with public events and media coverage. These benchmarks should be revisited and revised periodically. A subset of the group should coordinate a public information campaign to assist in celebrating these successes and otherwise raise awareness of the trail system and its benefits.

These leaders and other municipal and county participants are also encouraged to form partnerships with organizations that can assist in identifying viable trail opportunities and working with willing landowners to build support and interest in trails and greenways.

Phase II (Build Public Support)

Priority

Building off the existing steering committee developed to create this master plan, establish a Trail Advisory Committee to promote greenway development and advise the governing group on related issues	High
Conduct a public information campaign to advertise trail successes and future trail plans	Medium
Form partnerships with regional non-profit organizations that can move quickly to procure open space and trail opportunities	Medium

High Priority- Within 1 Year
Medium Priority- Within 2-5 Years
Low Priority- Within 6-10 Years

COMPLETE TOP PRIORITY SEGMENTS

Once adopted by the county, towns and city through which the proposed Carolina Thread Trail weaves, CTT staff can assist communities as they develop implementation funding strategies, including potential catalytic Thread grants. The first step is to determine which segment to focus on. The Steering Committee suggests a prioritization,

based on its understanding of trail creation readiness and other circumstances throughout the county as of the spring of 2009.⁴⁰ With a caveat that more research is needed into feasibility and that circumstances are likely to change, the committee offers this list only as a first attempt to evaluate current opportunities across the study area.

With these caveats in mind, the committee encourages communities, as they adopt the Carolina Thread Trail into existing and new related plans, to consider focusing resources on developing the following segments:

Segments to consider for implementation in years 1-5 (20.6 miles total) in no specific order:

- Southern Segment of the proposed new Catawba River Trail: Starting in Great Falls and heading north along the abandoned rail corridor for 6.3 miles total,
- Lowrys Segment: Beginning at the York County border along Old York Road and going south, then around Oliphant Lake for a total 6.7 miles, and
- Northern Segment of the proposed new Catawba River Trail: Starting at the York County border and heading south to reach and continue through Landsford Canal State Park, for a total of 7.6 miles.

For example, the Southern Segment of the proposed new Catawba River Trail has numerous promising attributes. There are mostly gentle grades and stable surfaces, and railroad ties have been removed. It appears that there are only a few landowners adjacent to this stretch, (among them, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Katawba Valley Land Trust, and Crescent Resources) and there are no homes abutting the abandoned rail corridor along this segment. In terms of aesthetics, there are several places to view the water – not only the Catawba River, but also



Fishing Creek, and other water bodies. There would also be views from the trail of mature hardwoods, Mill Village #2, and other sites such as the Great Falls Dam, downtown Great Falls, and the Nitrolee Plant. There is good access and connectivity to Rocky Creek, the future Dearborn Island State Park, and there is potential access to various hiking trails. The right-of-way would have to be acquired before a trail can be designed and built.

Phase III (Prioritization)	Priority
Review priority segments identified in the plan	High
Identify and maximize local trail opportunities through the development plan review process, open space acquisition, and floodplain regulations	Medium
Review current and future utility corridors/easements for local greenway opportunities	Medium
Establish criteria for trail priorities (i.e. cost, length of trail, location, conservation benefit, etc.)	Medium
Discuss and rank greenway priorities based on agreed upon criteria	Medium
Consider developing and recommending a multi-year, dedicated funding source to support greenway acquisition and stewardship	Medium
Consider developing an acquisition plan based on priority segments and the current Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)	Medium
High Priority- Within 1 Year Medium Priority- Within 2-5 Years Low Priority- Within 6-10 Years	

IDENTIFY FUNDING

A funding quilt is the combination of funding sources—federal, state, local and private—that are brought together to help achieve trail acquisition and development. Eventually, a funding quilt will be needed to achieve the objectives outlined in this plan. This can include both private and public funding.

1. Private Funding

Private funding from individual donors and foundations may be available to supplement public funding sources. The Carolina Thread Trail organization, housed within the Catawba Lands Conservancy, is spearheading a private fundraising campaign to make seed dollars available to communities in the form of grants for not only trail planning, but also design, acquisition, and construction of individual trail projects that follow on the heels of the planning process. These, along with other potential local funds, can provide catalytic dollars that communities will weave into a funding quilt.

2. Public Funding

a. Federal Funding Options:

Federal programs are described in **Appendix IV**. Trail-related programs appear at the top of the list, and many other programs are included that do not relate directly to trails but may be used to help fund trail creation in certain instances. They are all administered by federal agencies but vary in how funds are delivered for on the ground trail projects. For example, some of these program funds are directed to the states, which in turn decide what projects to fund, while other program funds are granted by a federal agency through a competitive process. In still other cases, Congress may “earmark” funds for individual projects. The descriptions provided are meant to provide a broad overview of funding sources.

b. State Funding Options:

Historically, the most statewide conservation funding provided to local governments has come through the state’s real estate transfer tax, which was allocated between the Heritage Trust Program and the Conservation Bank Act.⁴¹ Approximately eight percent of the real estate transfer tax fund is allocated to the Heritage Trust. In late 2008 the SC legislature diverted the funding dealt to The Conservation



Bank Act. Until then, the program received approximately \$9 million per year from the real estate transfer tax and was the only grant program that provided funding to local governments specifically for trail projects. It is unknown whether or not the legislature will re-instate the funding for this program in the near future. Below is a more detailed description of both programs.

Other conservation funding in South Carolina is provided through the Conservation Incentives Act and the Park and Recreation Development Fund.

Under the Conservation Incentives Act, landowners may qualify for an income tax deduction and credit if their land or conservation easement donation qualifies for a charitable tax deduction under federal tax law. In addition to the state income tax deduction, The South Carolina Conservation Incentives Act allows a state tax credit of 25 percent of the fair market value of the donation, with a cap of \$250 per acre and an annual limit of \$52,500. Any unused portion may be carried forward indefinitely. The landowner may sell, gift, or transfer the credit with written approval from the South Carolina Department of Revenue.

The Park and Recreation Development Fund was established by the General Assembly in 1987 and is administered by The Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism. It is a non-competitive program⁴² that provides grants to local governments for the improvement of public park and recreation facilities, but not funding for land acquisition. Local governments are required to provide a 20 percent match for all projects.

South Carolina Heritage Trust Program

The South Carolina Heritage Trust Program was created in 1976 to help prevent habitat loss by protecting critical endangered species sites through land acquisition. Enabling

legislation directed the Department of Natural Resources, in concert with other state agencies, to set aside a system of heritage preserves for the benefit of present and future generations.⁴³ The program succeeded initially through a combination of property donations and federal grants. In subsequent years, federal funding decreased. State funding for acquiring heritage preserves was added to the act in 1986, using part of the real estate transfer tax to create the Heritage Land Trust Fund.⁴⁴ There are no dollars for local governments in this program.

Land Conservation Bank Act

In 2000, South Carolina began the Land Legacy Initiative, which helped address the need for a dedicated funding source for local government and non-government entities to acquire environmentally sensitive lands for public benefit.

The South Carolina General Assembly, in a bipartisan effort, passed the South Carolina Conservation Bank Act. The Act was signed and ratified by the Governor in April 2002. Though the Act was passed in 2002, funding, derived through the real estate transfer tax, did not begin until July 2004. The Bank established a grant application process in fiscal year 2004-05 and funded its first projects in 2005. Local governments and non-government entities whose principal activity is the acquisition and management of interests in land for conservation or historic preservation can apply for funds to acquire, develop, construct and maintain parks and greenways. A local match is encouraged but not required. The bank is not set up to allocate specific amounts for trails and greenways. But all projects are considered on a case-by-case basis. Late in 2008, the General Assembly voted to transfer the balance of the Bank's funds for Fiscal Year 2009 (about \$7 million) to the fund fuel for school buses. It does not appear the funding will be re-instated in the immediate future. The Fiscal Year 2010 budget is not yet finalized and some funding may be available for grant making.⁴⁵



c. Local Funding Options:

Discussion in this section is focused on funding opportunities for raising dollars locally for trail projects, both at the county and municipal level.

Chester County could raise revenue for open space initiatives by increasing property tax revenue. For example, based on taxable valuation for fiscal year 2006-2007, a 7 - mill increase by Chester County would generate approximately \$800,000 per year and would cost the average homeowner about \$23 per year.⁴⁶ This funding option can provide a revenue stream for land acquisition as well as ongoing costs of operations and maintenance for trail projects, but it does not guarantee a long-term source of funding as budget priorities could change over time.

allow for the immediate purchase of land and distributes the cost of acquisition over time so that future beneficiaries also share in the cost burden of acquiring land. For example, Chester County has some capacity under existing debt limits to issue general obligation bonds for parks and trail purposes. Chester’s legal debt margin is \$3.8 million.⁴⁷ Based on an analysis performed in 2009, if the county passed a \$3.5 million general obligation bond referendum, for trail creation that would add about \$281,000 to the county’s annual debt service and cost the average homeowner roughly \$8 per year in additional property taxes over the life of the bond. Meanwhile, it would raise approximately \$3.5 million for land acquisition, and trail development.⁴⁸ Appendix V contains examples of recent local bond measures in South Carolina.

Table 5:

Chester County Estimated Revenue and Cost of Additional Mill Levy

Mill Taxable Increase	Annual Valuation	Revenue	Cost/Year/ Ave House**
3.00	\$114,134,165	\$342,402	\$9.83
4.00	\$114,134,165	\$456,537	\$13.10
5.00	\$114,134,165	\$570,671	\$16.38
6.00	\$114,134,165	\$798,939	\$22.93
7.00	\$114,134,165	\$798,939	\$22.93

*As reported by Chester County Tax Assessor Treasurer. Communication with Linda Modin, Chester County Grant Coordinator.

**Calculation is determined by multiplying the assess median home value by the proposed mill increase. Assessed home value is derived by multiplying market home value by 4 percent. 2005-2007 median home value countywide was approximately \$81,900 (\$3,276 taxable value based on assessed rate of 4% of the market value for residential owner-occupied property)

Another option for local governments is bonding. One benefit of a bond issue is that it provides up front funds that

Table 6:

Bond Financing Costs

Bond Issue Size	Annual Debt Svce	Mills Required	Cost/Ave/ Home AV*
3.00	\$114,134,165	\$342,402	\$9.83
4.00	\$114,134,165	\$456,537	\$13.10
5.00	\$114,134,165	\$570,671	\$16.38
6.00	\$114,134,165	\$798,939	\$22.93
7.00	\$114,134,165	\$798,939	\$22.93

*Calculation is determined by multiplying the assess median home value by the proposed mill increase. Assessed home value is derived by multiplying market home value by 4 percent. 2005-2007 median home value countywide was approximately \$81,900 (\$3,276 taxable value based on assessed rate of 4% of the market value for residential owner-occupied property)

As a third option, it is possible that Chester County could use sales tax revenue to develop trails in the future.⁴⁹ State law allows voters to approve a 1 percent Local Option



Sales Tax and a 1 percent special local sales tax⁵⁰. Special local sales taxes include the Capital Project Sales Tax, the Transportation Authority Sales Tax, and a School Tax. Therefore, beyond the state sales tax rate of 6 percent, counties have the authority to impose an additional 2 percent sales tax rate, or a total rate of 8 percent.⁵¹ Because Chester County levies a Local Option Sales Tax and a Capital Projects Sales Tax for the development of jails it cannot presently issue another special local sales tax.⁵² The Capital Projects Sales Tax was passed in November of 2008 and will be implemented May 1, 2009. It will not expire until May 1, 2016. The local option sales tax does not have a sunset provision.

At the municipal or county level, capital improvement dollars may also be raised for trails through a park impact fee program. Impact fees are commonly used to help defray costs of new roads, water and sewer treatment, schools, parks, and other infrastructure necessitated by new development. Under this type of program, impact fees are charged against new development to generate revenue to pay for the particular type of capital improvement, in this case park and trail infrastructure. Under South Carolina law, the local government or special purpose district must have a comprehensive plan or a capital improvements plan to impose impact fees. There are a number of state laws related to establishing impact fee programs, including guidance (and limitations) on how to calculate the fee.⁵³ In FY 2000, municipalities in South Carolina generated about \$12 million in impact fees.

Phase IV (Identify Funding Sources)

Priority

Pursue all avenues of grants from state, federal and non-governmental funding sources	High
Consider local bonds to pay for greenway acquisition, design, construction, and maintenance expenses	Medium
High Priority- Within 1 Year	
Medium Priority- Within 2-5 Years	
Low Priority- Within 6-10 Years	

EVALUATE LAND OR RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION OPTIONS

Methods of land acquisition could include any of the following:

Donations – land or easements (the right to use a portion of land for certain purposes, as defined in a contract, while fee simple ownership is retained) can be donated to a local government or a local land trust by private citizens or business owners, which in turn can generate a tax reduction for them. See Conservation Incentives Act in funding section above for a description of incentives for landowners in South Carolina to provide easements. Details should be confirmed with a qualified tax advisor.

Purchase – this method is probably the most common method of acquiring land, and land trusts can often help acquire land at less than fair market value.

Zoning/Development Regulations – buffers along certain stream corridors in South Carolina are already protected in order to prevent building intrusion into sensitive areas which in turn may be used for some trail corridors. Additional development regulations can also be adopted that create building restrictions and dedication requirements. Examples of these requirements include, but are not limited to, setbacks from perennial streams, flood plain development restrictions and open space/trail dedication requirements.



Developer Contributions – Once the conceptual route in Figure A is officially incorporated into community plans, it can be included in GIS layers for local governments. As discussed previously, if a developer applies for a permit for a development and it overlaps with any of the proposed trail connections, local governments can require or offer incentives for an open space set aside or for that portion of the trail corridor to be developed as part of the subdivision approval process. The trail will be a marketing benefit to the developer and will in turn allow them to charge a higher premium for the homes adjacent to the trail. This sets up a win – win situation for everyone involved.

Abandoned Rail Corridors – Discussions will need to be held with the rail corridor owners as well as SC DOT Rails Division. The cost of trail construction is typically lower along abandoned rail corridors because a graded corridor with gradual slopes is already established.

Phase V (Acquisition)

Priority

Approach property owners about potential voluntary easement(s) or property donations based on the established priorities

Medium

Negotiate with property owner(s)

Medium

Retain control of the desired trail corridor

Medium

High Priority- Within 1 Year

Medium Priority- Within 2-5 Years

Low Priority- Within 6-10 Years

DESIGN, CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN

TRAILS

Once a trail segment is selected and land acquired, trail design typically follows. It will be essential for communities to determine the intended use(s) of a particular segment

and design with that in mind. Designing for safety and for affordable maintenance is also highly recommended.

Intended uses of the trail will dictate the surface material to be used and will have a direct bearing on the construction and maintenance costs. The Chester County communities’ planning process revealed that in general, people are most interested in walking, horseback riding, biking (road and mountain), hiking, nature walks/education, and having trails that people with disabilities can access. So, if the trail segment were going to be a multi-purpose trail for walkers, bikers, and horseback riders, then a surface material of either crushed limestone or granite screening would be a good choice.

Trail construction costs will vary, and until a project is put out for competitive bid, there is no way to accurately determine local prices. A competitive bid process should ask for the cost of trail construction using the three most common trail construction surfaces (granite screening, asphalt, and concrete) in order to fully understand the costs and potential savings when making a decision between one building material over another.

As a reference point, the recent Rocky Creek Trail project in Great Falls cost about \$85,000, and 1.2 miles were constructed. The trail includes a 4-inch crushed stone base course with fabric underlay, a 100 ft. boardwalk and trail signage.

Preliminary site plans should be reviewed by all staff members, including emergency service personnel, so they can offer suggestions, guidance, and have their voices heard from the very beginning. There is sometimes a disconnect between the designer and operating staffs. Designs that are pleasing to the eye are not always conducive to good and inexpensive maintenance. Therefore, it is imperative that cost saving should be a part of any design with a thorough



review of the plans while they are still in a preliminary stage.

Security starts in the design phase as well. There is much that can be done in designing a trail system that greatly reduces the risk of crime. Security experts such as the local police chief or county sheriff should be consulted early on in order to seek their advice and to alert them that the trail will be built and that they need to plan for it as well. Well placed lights, wide-open spaces along the trail, removal of underbrush, and easily accessible trailheads all add to the security matrix. Routine patrols and staff members in uniform will alert people that the trail is being watched. Security tips and procedures can be conveyed on bulletin boards, on brochures and in informal gatherings by park staff along the trail.

Phase VI (Design, Construction, and Beyond) *Priority*

Coordinate with local law enforcement and emergency services on the trail design and safety	High
Develop a long-term maintenance plan	High
After the corridor is acquired proceed with the following steps	
Survey the desired trail segment	Medium
Complete and approve construction drawings	Medium
Bid the trail project and select the contractor	Medium
Oversee completion of work by contractor	Medium
Consider planning and executing a trail ribbon cutting/Grand Opening	Medium
Coordinate with volunteer groups to maintain the trail facilities	Medium

High Priority- Within 1 Year
Medium Priority- Within 2-5 Years
Low Priority- Within 6-10 Years



Entrance to Chester State Park



CHAPTER 6. CONCLUSION

Through a collaborative planning process community members in Chester County articulated a sense of place and showed excitement about honoring special landscapes and destinations for economic, psychological, cultural and health reasons by connecting them and interacting with them on foot, on horseback, on bicycle and other modes.

This report outlines an ambitious plan for developing a comprehensive network of trails across Chester County.

The many community partners who have been involved in the planning process recognize the urgency of starting a county-wide and region-wide linear park system now, while opportunities still exist for making connections and linking important places. They also recognize that this plan will not be implemented overnight, and that while segments should begin appearing soon, it will take years, if not decades, to link them all together. The time to start is now.



Historic House, West End Street, Chester, SC



Sites in Chester County, SC



APPENDIX I: CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY

Chester County public listening sessions for the greenway planning process were held October 13, October 14, and October 16 in Chester County. The sessions were hosted at the following locations: Lewisville Elementary School in Richburg, Great Falls Presbyterian Church (Social Hall) in Great Falls, and The Chester County Government Complex in Chester. About 50 members of the general public participated in these initial listening sessions.

The meetings were advertised in several ways by members of the steering committee, including notice to local news venues, posted flyers, and personal invitations to individuals and groups. For example: email networks were used to reach Chester County Chamber, United Way, the Historical Society, and Clemson Extension; flyers were sent to Chester News and Reporter as well as The Herald and TruVista Cable News; flyers were distributed at the Rotary Club and the Chester Government Complex; and in Chester flyers were posted at Food Lion, Bi-Lo, Wal-Mart, and Ezell's Hardware.

Input from these sessions is summarized below. Items mentioned most frequently appear near the top of each list. This public input will help guide the steering committee in selection of alternative routes for the Carolina Thread Trail and for other trails across Chester County, shape the development of portions of the county-wide greenway plan (e.g. statement of priorities/identification of themes and concerns), and provide ideas for design guidelines and other Carolina Thread Trail activities.

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

1. *How do you want to use trails now or in the future?*

- Walking
- Horse back riding
- Biking (road and mountain)
- Hiking (for scouts specifically mentioned in two groups)
- Nature walks/education (include information about geology of the area)
- ADA – places that can be used by people with disabilities
- Picnicking
- Fishing
- Bird watching
- Non-motorized
- Historic Preservation and Interpretation
- Dog walking
- Jogging
- Photography
- Accessing different areas of county
- Access to Camping
- Access to Canoe/kayaking
- Youth programs, examples:
 - 4-H
 - Junior Conservationist
 - Scout programs
 - Triathlons
 - Family activities
 - Consider programming to involve people of all ages



2. What important places should be part of the Carolina Thread Trail system?

A. Generally

- Public parks
- Historic communities
- Historic sites
- Access to blueways (there should be canoe/kayak trail on both Catawba and Broad Rivers)
- Schools

B. Parks

- Landsford Canal State Park
- Chester State Park
- Sumter National Forest
- Woods Ferry Recreation Area (horse accommodations)
- Mount Dearborn (future State Park) on Dearborn Island
- Richburg Park
- Wylie Park (City of Chester)
- The public golf course

Towns in Chester County:

- Great Falls
- Chester (historic downtown)
- Lowrys
- West Chester (horses)

Towns/locations in other counties:

- Historic Brattonsville
- Kings Mountain State Park
- Connection to Appalachian Trail and Palmetto Trail
- Rock Hill
- Charleston
- Fairfield County

Water features:

- Catawba River
- Broad River
- Islands in the Catawba River (Dearborn Island specifically mentioned by one group, it is one of 5 islands that will be part of the future state park)
- Oliphant Lake
- Mountain Lakes
- Rocky Creek – existing trail and could follow along Catawba River
- Fishing Creek

Cultural, recreation and historical places:

- Brainerd Institute (Chester)
- Chester Airport and Carolina Skydiving
- Lando Manetta Museum
- Beckhamville Battlefield Site (Great Falls)
- Cottonhills Farm (Lowrys)
- 136 acre battleground – Fish Dam Ford (Revolutionary War)
- Museum (downtown Chester)
- Transportation Museum (downtown Chester)
- Ruins of Armory – Dearborn Island
- Old Catholic Church (toward Great Falls)
- One Room Schoolhouse – Hwy 9
- Future Olde English Visitors Center
- TNT Motorsports (off of Brown Road, Richburg is closest town)
- Rocky Mount (Revolutionary War Site)
- Gristmill Historic Site
- Carriage Factory
- USGS Stream Gauge System – there is one along Rocky Creek that USGS might help make into an attraction along the trail that people can visit
- Nitrolee (German fertilizing plant)



Other:

- I-77 – access
- Old rail line in Great Falls (rail-trail conversion)
- NOT old rail bed in Ft. Lawn – Hwy 21 Corridor in Ft. Lawn (York County border south to Great Falls along Hwy 21 corridor)
- Montrose – planned community
- Existing Great Falls trails
- Bed & Breakfasts

3. *What do you want to see along the way?*

- Access to restroom facilities (consider self-composting port-a-potties)
- Parking at trailheads (one group mentioned that it should include places to park horse trailers, and another said parking lots should have lights)
- Picnic facilities
- Emergency call boxes
- Links to camping areas
- Signs:
 - Wayfinding (directional) signs
 - Mileage markers
 - Interpretive signs – historic sites, etc.
 - Distance/difficulty signs
 - Tree identification
 - Plant identification
 - Food signs, retail signs, etc.
 - “leave no trace” signs
- GPS pick-up sites
- Rest stop with:
 - Benches
 - Shelter
 - Information

- Waste stations:

Trash cans (at picnic areas, shelters, parking lots, fishing spots)

Recycling Stations

Pet Waste Stations

- Swimming beach
- Fishing spots
- Canoe launch
- Exercise equipment with instructions
- Overlook vistas
- Places to get food
- Access areas throughout
- Information center (kiosk)

4. *What are your community's attitudes and concerns about greenways generally and about the Carolina Thread Trail concept specifically?*

A. Positives:

- Great that this is a funding source to match other monies
- Wonderful idea!!

Questions/concerns:

- Questions about maintenance: Who will do it? How will it be paid for? Could volunteer groups be used? Could there be a maintenance endowment?
- Questions about crime and safety (e.g. How are you going to handle safety of Carolina Thread Trail users when there are hunters in adjacent areas?)
- Concerns about costs related to trails such as providing amenities on trails, construction, operating and maintenance, etc.



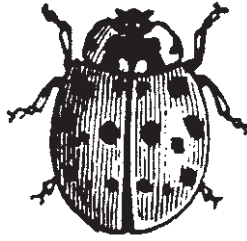
- Landowners along river – is there potential to put trail there?
- Agreements – points of intersection between communities/counties. How will this be handled? (Interjurisdictional meetings)
- Who will take care of easements? – local land trusts would be optimal.

Suggestions:

- More communication about potential (one person said that less than 10% Chester residents know about the CTT.) Ideas:
 - o Utilize website – information for different types of users
 - o Keep up the effort to use local radio shows
 - o www.greaterrichburgsc.com as place to post information about CTT
 - o Publicize positives of real estate values
 - o Get information in the newspaper
 - o Organize trail walks – people will come out and see what it's all about
 - o Booths at community festivals – Hilarity this weekend.
 - o Information at museums
 - o Churches
 - o Scout troops
 - o 4-H
 - o Equestrian clubs
 - o Local Community channel on TV
 - o Silver Sneakers walking club at YMCA

5. *Additional ideas/suggestions offered by participants that did not fit into the categories above*

- Chester – good sidewalks existing
- Trails existing in Wylie Park
- Animals should be on leash
- In two out of the three groups, at least one person advocated for motorized use in a particular designated area... They said to consider an area(s) dedicated for ATV use. In both of these groups, other disagreed and one said they worry about people violating limits/rules.



APPENDIX II: CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE SUMMARY

The Chester County Steering Committee hosted open houses to get public input on potential segments for the Carolina Thread Trail (CTT) through Chester County. There were three formal open houses:

- at the YMCA in Chester on February 17th from 5:00 – 7:00 (50 people attended and 45 of them completed surveys),
- at Front Porch Restaurant in Richburg from 12:00 – 2:00 on February 19th (45 people attended and 33 completed surveys), and
- at the Great Falls Presbyterian Church from 5:00 – 7:00 on February 19th (34 people attended and 33 completed surveys).

Members of the public were also encouraged to visit Chester County Planning & Zoning at the R. Carlisle Roddey Office Building on the J.A. Cochran Bypass anytime during regular business hours between Monday February 23 and Friday, February 27 (46 people signed-in and 31 completed surveys).

With leadership from the steering committee, open house session advertising included:

- The News and Reporter published two stories, one on February 12 (including all of the dates and times of the open houses) and another on February 20th (including information about stopping by the county building the following week);
- Radio and cable public service announcements ran on local stations;
- Announcements were made at various meetings, including the County Council meeting held prior to the first open house;
- An email went out to everyone who attended the listening sessions last fall (who had provided an email address);
- Contact was made with every group that has signed a resolution of support with a request that their members be

notified. The Chamber, United Way and Clemson Extension sent emails to all their members notifying them about the open houses;

- An E-mail blast went out to all of The Olde English District Commission's Chester County Attractions and hotels, as well as state parks;
- Some phone calls were made to encourage participation;
- Steering committee members visited the YMCA in advance to post signs and posters about the open house inside the building and update the marquee; and
- A flyer was given out at the open houses with information about visiting the county building the following week.

One-hundred seventy five people attended the open houses or visited the county building to view the connection opportunities map, setting a new participation record among counties engaged in CTT planning processes so far. In sum, there were 129 open house attendees, and an additional 46 people stopped by the county building to view maps, fill out surveys, or otherwise register their opinions.

These sessions were designed to give the public an opportunity to offer input and comments about preliminary concept routes for where the CTT might cross Chester County. CTT staff, The Trust for Public Land staff, and Chester County Steering Committee members were present to explain the process to date and introduce visitors to the map showing alternative routes. All visitors were asked to fill out a short survey. 142 surveys were received, and they were analyzed to provide input into route selection and other aspects of the Chester County Communities' Master Greenway Plan. The survey responses are summarized in the following paragraphs.



Perceptions about trails and greenways

The responses from the three formal open houses were almost universally positive, with only two people indicating on surveys that they believe that trail and greenways would decrease their quality of life. All of the other respondents said they expect trails and greenways to increase their quality of life. Many of them made very enthusiastic and supportive remarks about this project or trails generally.

However, at the county building, where Planning and Zoning Director Mack Paul hosted the opportunities map the following week, most comments were negative. Of the 31 people who completed surveys, 28 indicated that they thought trails and greenways would decrease their quality of life. Nevertheless, all but a few of them selected regional destinations that they thought should be connected by a greenway or trail, and they prioritized segments for inclusion in the CTT. One person seemed to offer an explanation in this written comment: “No one wants a trail behind their house.”

With that in mind, the Trust for Public Land survey analyst examined where survey respondents live and what trails they were prioritizing, among those who indicated they thought trails would decrease their quality of life and who disclosed which segment they lived closest to. 26 of the 28 refrained from prioritizing the segment closest to where they live, consistent with “Not in My Backyard” land-use planning phenomenon.

The opposite was true among those who believe that trails will increase their quality of life: the majority selected the trail closest to where they live as a high priority for inclusion in the network. Several others who visited the county building did not fill out surveys, but indicated on a sign-in sheet that they are opposed to some of the trails. A few people who signed in wrote that they oppose all trails.

Familiarity with greenways and trails

One hundred thirty-five (135) people responded to the question asking whether they had ever been on a greenway/trail before. (There were 7 non-responses.) Overall, 65/135 (48%) had never been on a trail before.

DESTINATION POPULARITY

One hundred twenty-seven (127) people responded to this question: “What are the most regionally significant locations/destinations in Chester County that ought to be connected by a greenway or trail? You may select up to 10, and not more than 10 from this list of 32.” (There were 15 non-responses, almost half of them were disqualified because they selected more locations than the question permitted.)

These are the most popular locations/destinations in the sense that at least 1 in 3 respondents voted for them, followed by the percentage of respondents who supported them:

- Landsford Canal State Park – over 70% (90/127)
- The City of Chester – over 55% (71/127)
- The Town of Great Falls – more than 50% (66/127)
- Chester State Park - 50% (63/127)
- Chester Historic District – more than 45% (61/127)

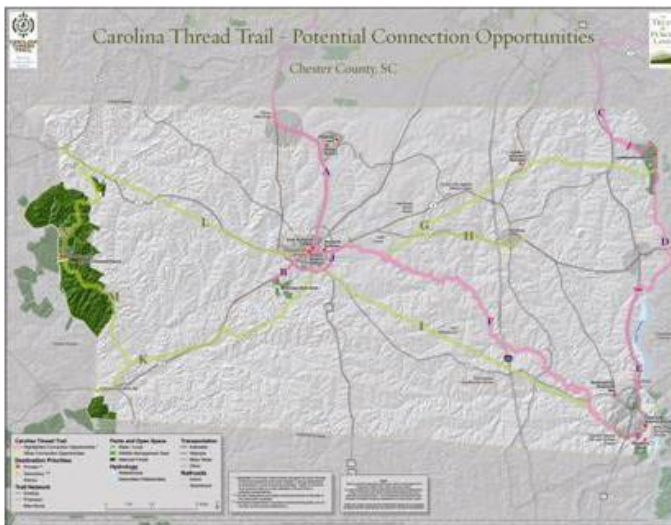
SEGMENT POPULARITY

One hundred thirty-six (136) people responded to this question: “The Carolina Thread Trail will be the backbone for city, town and county trail systems. It will ultimately be a regional system connecting to other counties in North and South Carolina. With that in mind, which of these segments are most important as part of the Carolina Thread Trail regional system? You may check up to 5, and not more than 5, from this list of 15.” (There were 6 non-responses, but they will be included since they may all have been



intentional non-votes.) At least 1 in 3 respondents voted for each of these.

- Segment D, more than 50% (77/142).
- Segment A, more than 45% (67/142).
- Segment E, more than 45%, (65/142).
- Segment C, 45% (64/142).
- Segment B, almost 35% (48/142).



It is remarkable that more than 5 dozen people turned out to talk about trails without having experienced one firsthand. It appears that the most fruitful outreach was achieved through word-of-mouth and newspaper articles.

Two potential routes seem to be of greatest interest to survey respondents, as seen through their top pick destinations and their top pick opportunity segments:

- Segments A and B would connect the City of Chester, the Chester Historic District and Chester State Park, with a route roughly as follows: connecting from York County boundary, south past the airport/Lake Oliphant along Old York Road to the center of the City of Chester and then heading south along SR 72 to the entrance to Chester State Park.

- Segments C, D and E would connect Landsford State Park and the Town of Great Falls, with a route roughly as follows: From York County boundary south along the abandoned rail corridor to SR 21; then to Landsford Road, passing through Landsford Canal State Park then south along the Catawba River; joining the abandoned rail corridor south of Fort Lawn; following the abandoned rail corridor south of Fort Lawn; joining the proposed Great Falls Rail Trail to Great Falls, ending at the Rocky Creek Trail junction.

The trail would probably be 6-12 feet wide and could be paved, or have a gravel screening surface, or simply be a packed dirt surface, depending on what the community decides.

Note, that fourteen people who visited the county building – who may or may not have filled out a survey – indicated that they were specifically opposed to having trails segments C, D and E. Of the approximate 24 miles of trail length proposed here, there were few opponents who live adjacent to the proposed trail – their land, altogether, extends less than 1.5 miles along that proposed 24 mile trail.

The majority of respondents are in favor of bringing more trails and greenways to Chester County, and are well aware of the benefits that trails provide communities. That said, many people articulated concerns about condemnation of private land, fears of trespassing and crime, worry about costs to taxpayers, and fears of increased liability and decreased privacy for landowners who may be adjacent to a potential future trail.

Most of the concerns mentioned in the surveys can be addressed through thoughtful design and planning, as well as best practices such as not using condemnation as a tool for trail building. Condemnation is very rarely used, and it could be a policy of these local governments to prohibit it. Trails do require public investment and if they're not embraced by

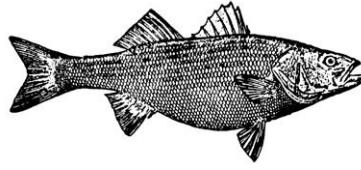


the communities that have them, they will be underutilized. There are thousands of miles of trails across the United States in places where people initially had concerns like those articulated above, but once the trails were built, these fears and concerns dissipated because trails are safe, bring economic benefits and give people places to learn and play close to home.

The responses received at the open houses indicate strong interest in trails, but the steering committee should consider a cautious approach and recommend trails in places where people are most apt to welcome them, see them and use them.

NEXT STEPS

Based on public feedback as well as technical and practical considerations, the steering committee will consider a final conceptual route from among the many alternatives appearing on the open house maps to recommend to city councils and the Chester County Council for adoption. The conceptual routes depicted will illustrate connections between destinations, but not precise routes. The trail itself will likely end up being 6-12 feet wide. Over time, exact routes will be determined, based on an ongoing dialogue with the community and potential interested landowners.



APPENDIX III: SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED ACTION STEPS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

	<i>Priority</i>
Phase I - Plan Adoption	
Review and recommendation(s) by any municipalities' advisory Board(s)	High
Review and adoption of the Greenway Master Plan by the governing board(s)	High
Consider reviewing and amending the current zoning, subdivision, or unified development ordinance to require dedication of trail easements for new development	Medium
Consider reviewing and amending the floodplain ordinance to strictly limit the construction of structures in floodplains	Medium
Consider reviewing and amending the zoning, subdivision, or unified development ordinance to protect riparian buffer corridors	Medium
Consider reviewing the current open space and land dedication requirement(s) and payment in lieu policies/ordinances	Medium
Phase II - Build Public Support	
Building off the existing steering committee developed to create this master plan, establish a Trail Advisory Committee to promote greenway development and advise the governing group on related issues	High
Conduct a public information campaign to advertise trail successes and future trail plans	Medium
Form partnerships with regional non-profit organizations that can move quickly to procure open space and trail opportunities	Medium
Phase III - Prioritization	
Review priority segments identified in the plan	High
Identify and maximize local trail opportunities through the development plan review process, open space acquisition, and floodplain regulations	Medium
Review current and future utility corridors/easements for local greenway opportunities	Medium
Establish criteria for trail priorities (i.e. cost, length of trail, location, conservation benefit, etc.)	Medium
Discuss and rank greenway priorities based on agreed upon criteria	Medium
Consider developing and recommending a multi-year, dedicated funding source to support greenway acquisition and stewardship	Medium
Consider developing an acquisition plan based on priority segments and the current Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)	Medium
Phase IV - Identify Funding Sources	
Pursue all avenues of grants from state, federal and non-governmental funding sources	High
Consider local bonds to pay for greenway acquisition, design, construction, and maintenance expenses	Medium
Phase V - Acquisition	
Approach property owners about potential voluntary easement(s) or property donations based on the established priorities	Medium
Negotiate with property owner(s)	Medium
Retain control of the desired trail corridor	Medium



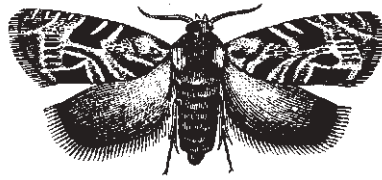
Phase VI - Design, Construction, and Beyond

Priority

Coordinate with local law enforcement and emergency services on the trail design and safety	High
Develop a long-term maintenance plan	High
After the corridor is acquired proceed with the following steps:	
Survey the desired trail segment	Medium
Complete and approve construction drawings	Medium
Bid the trail project and select the contractor	Medium
Oversee completion of work by contractor	Medium
Consider planning and executing a trail ribbon cutting/Grand Opening	Medium
Coordinate with volunteer groups to maintain the trail facilities	Medium



Entrance Chester State Park



APPENDIX IV: FEDERAL FUNDING OPTIONS

Recreational Trails Grants Program

US Department of Transportation

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/rectrails/index.htm>

http://www.ncparks.gov/About/trails_main.php

The Recreation Trails Program is a federal transportation program that provides monies for the maintenance, development, acquisition and construction of new and existing trail facilities for both motorized and nonmotorized recreational trail uses. Funds are distributed to the states according to a formula. Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations, municipal agencies, state agencies, federal government agencies and other government entities (regional governments, port districts, etc.). Eligible projects include:

- (1) maintenance and restoration of existing trails,
- (2) development and rehabilitation of existing trails,
- (3) construction of new recreation trails, and
- (4) acquisition of easements and fee simple title to property.

Grants are distributed annually and require a twenty percent match.

In FY 2009, South Carolina is receiving \$1,222,269, which is administered by a section of the Division of Parks and Recreation for South Carolina. Funds from this program have been used in the past for trails and improvements.

Transportation Enhancements (TE)

US Department of Transportation

www.enhancements.org

<http://www.scdot.org/community/tep.shtml>

The federal Surface Transportation Program provides states with funding for highway projects. States are allocated funds based on a combination of population, transportation systems, miles of roads, and other factors. Each state must

reserve at least 10 percent of its Surface Transportation Program dollars for transportation enhancement activities. These enhancement projects include historic preservation, rails-to-trails programs, easement and land acquisition, transportation museums, water pollution mitigation, wildlife connectivity, and scenic beautification. All projects must be related, in some way, to transportation.

In each state, TE projects are selected through a competitive process. Applications are submitted by local government entities, often in partnership with nonprofit organizations. The federal government provides 80 percent of the funds and the municipalities need to contribute a 20-percent match.

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. The Transportation Enhancement Funds are provided by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (also known as SAFETEA-LU) and allocated by the South Carolina Department of Transportation.

Safe Routes to School Program

US Department of Transportation

<http://www.scdot.org/community/saferoutes.shtml>

SAFETEA-LU created a new program called Safe Routes to School. The goal of this program is to encourage children to walk to school by providing accessible and safe trails connecting schools to neighborhoods. 70% of the funds are



used for infrastructure, 10% for education and enforcement, and 20% can be used for either category. Matching funds are not required.

For the 2008 funding cycle, each applicant school selected in South Carolina was eligible to receive a maximum of \$200,000 for funding Safe Routes to School projects and programs. Any school with grades K–8, school district, municipality or other government entity could apply. According to the FY2008 application guidelines, “An application for funding must represent only one eligible school.”

Transportation and Community and System Preservation Program (TCSP)

South Carolina Department of Transportation

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/tcsp/>

The Transportation and Community and System Preservation Program (TCSP) was established to help communities address the linkage between transportation, land use, and quality of life. Its goals are to improve the efficiency of transportation systems, reduce transportation’s environmental impacts, reduce the need for costly future public infrastructure investments, and plan for development.

After the initial competitive funding rounds, Congress began to earmark this program for a wide variety of transportation projects, including trails. To gain access to these funds, it has been necessary for a member of the congressional delegation to request a project during the congressional appropriations process. There was one competitive round of grants in FY 2007, when Congress failed to earmark any appropriations. In FY 2008, Congress earmarked the programs entire allocation again.

When there is a competitive process, the Federal Highway Administration will issue an RFP. Eligible entities include

states, metropolitan planning organizations, local governments, and tribal governments. Nongovernmental organizations are encouraged to partner with a government agency. A 20 percent match is required. Grant proposals should address how proposed activities will meet the following:

- Improve the efficiency of the transportation system.
- Reduce the impacts of transportation on the environment.
- Reduce the need for costly future public infrastructure.
- Ensure efficient access to jobs, services and centers of trade.
- Encourage private sector development patterns.

TCSP’s authorized funding level in FY 2009 is \$61.25 million. Planning grants are also available under this program to help communities achieve integration of transportation programs with community preservation and environmental activities.

A total of \$53.4 million were appropriated for the TCSP Program under the FY 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act. The Act designated TCSP Program funding for 102 projects in 36 States. In FY 2008, several TCSP earmarks were provided by Congress to the Carolinas. For example, Johnson County received \$360,150 for the Clayton Pedestrian Grade Separation and US 17 in Beaufort County received \$367,500. In FY 2006, South Carolina received \$1,076,625 for I-73 improvements.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

Department of the Interior (varies by agency)

<http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/lwcf/>

Created in 1965, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is the largest source of federal money for park, wildlife, and open space land acquisition. Specifically, the



LWCF provides funding to assist in the acquiring, preserving, developing and assuring accessibility to outdoor recreation resources, including but not limited to open space, parks, trails, wildlife lands and other lands and facilities desirable for individual active participation.⁵⁵ The program's funding comes primarily from offshore oil and gas drilling receipts, with an authorized expenditure of \$900 million each year, while federal recreation fees, sales of federal surplus real property, and federal motorboat fuel taxes fund also contribute to the LWCF. Under this program, a portion of the money is intended to go to federal land purchases and a portion to the states as matching grants for land protection projects.

***LWCF – Federal Department of the Interior
Department of Agriculture/US Forest Service***

The federal side of the Land and Water Conservation Fund provides funding for federal agencies (Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, National Park Service, and the Bureau of Land Management) to add land to existing recreation areas, parks, forests, refuges and other federal units. LWCF funding provides the bulk of the money available for this purpose and is typically provided through the annual federal appropriations process, with Congress making the determination of what federal land units will receive LWCF funding each year.

In South Carolina, there are two national forests, several national wildlife refuges and national park units such as Fort Sumter and Congaree National Park that qualify. Funding levels for federal land acquisitions are determined by Congress or the relevant federal agency and are related to the property's value.

LWCF--Stateside

National Park Service

http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/lwcf/fed_state.html

<http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/lwcf/home1.html>

<http://www.discoversouthcarolina.com/agency/grantslandconservation.asp>

The stateside LWCF program provides a 50 percent match to states for planning, developing and acquiring land and water areas for natural resource protection and recreation enhancement.

Funds are distributed to states based on population and need. Once the funds are distributed to the states, it is up to each state to choose the projects, though the National Park Service has final approval. Eligible grant recipients include municipal subdivisions, state agencies and tribal governments, each of whom must provide at least 50 percent matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions and a detailed plan for the proposed project. Grant applications are evaluated based on the technical merits of the project, the public/private partnerships, and how the project addresses the identified needs and priorities of a statewide comprehensive plan. Annual appropriations to the fund have ranged from a high of \$369 million in 1979 to four years of zero funding between 1996 and 1999.

In FY 2009, \$19 million was provided for stateside grants. In FY 2008, South Carolina received \$351,584. The program is administered by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Forest Legacy Program (FLP)

US Forest Service (USFS)

www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/aboutflp.shtml

The Forest Legacy Program was established in 1990 to provide federal funding to states to assist in securing



conservation easements on forestlands threatened with conversion to non-forest uses. Fee transactions are also used under the program, either for the whole transaction or combined with easements to achieve a state's highest conservation goals. A state voluntarily enters the program by submitting an Assessment of Need (AON) to the Secretary of Agriculture for approval. These plans establish the lead state agency, the state's criteria for Forest Legacy projects, and Forest Legacy areas within which proposed Legacy projects must be located. Once the AON is approved, the state lead agency can submit up to three grants each year for projects within the FLAs. The federal government may fund up to 75 percent of project costs, with at least 25 percent coming from private, state or local sources.

In FY 2009, the Forest Legacy Program was funded at \$57.5 million, providing grants to states for 24 forest conservation projects and providing project start-up funds for 3 new states. Both North Carolina and South Carolina are participating in the program and have protected approximately 6,500 acres with \$8.5 million in FLP funds and 32,250 acres with \$26.7 million in FLP funds, respectively, since joining the program.

***Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service***

<http://federalasst.fws.gov/sfr/fasfr.html>

The Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act, commonly referred to as the Dingell-Johnson Act, was passed in 1950, to create a program for the management, conservation, and restoration of fishery resources. The program is funded by revenues collected from an excise tax paid by the manufacturers of fishing equipment. Appropriate State agencies are the only entities eligible to receive these grants and funds are apportioned to each State on a formula based

on the percentage of licensed anglers in the state and the percentage of states' land and water area.

The program is a cost-reimbursement program in which the state applies for repayment of up to 75 percent of approved project expenses. The state must provide at least 25 percent of the project costs from non-federal sources.

In FY 2009, South Carolina received slightly over \$3.5 million in funding through this program.

***Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration
Pittman-Robertson Act)***

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

<http://federalasst.fws.gov/wr/fawr.html>

Implemented in 1938, the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, more commonly known as the Pittman-Robertson Act, provides funding for the selection, restoration, rehabilitation, and improvement of wildlife habitat as well as wildlife management research. Funds are derived from an excise tax on sporting arms, ammunition, and archery equipment as well as a percent tax on handguns. Funds are apportioned to state agencies on a formula based on the total area of the state and the number of licensed hunters in the state.

The program is a cost-reimbursement program in which the state applies for repayment of up to 75 percent of approved project expenses. The state must provide at least 25 percent of the project costs from non-federal sources.

In FY 2009, South Carolina received over \$2.2 million in funding through this program.

Migratory Bird Conservation Fund

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

<http://www.fws.gov/realty/mbcc.html>

Each year, duck stamp (migratory bird and conservation



stamps) revenues are deposited into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund along with appropriations from the Wetlands Loan Act of 1961, import duties from arms and ammunitions, receipts from refuge admission fees, receipts from the sale of refuge-land crops and refuge rights-of-way, and Federal Aid funds. Administered by the USFWS, the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund is used to acquire waterfowl breeding, wintering, and migration habitat needed for maintaining optimum migratory bird population levels and to achieve desirable migration and distribution patterns. The habitat areas, acquired in fee, easement, or other interests such as leases or cooperative agreements, become units of the National Wildlife Refuge System or Waterfowl Production Areas. The Service focuses its acquisition efforts to benefit waterfowl species most in need of habitat protection. Over 5 million acres have been protected with funds from the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund. Savannah NWR in South Carolina has acquired lands with funds provided through this program.

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

<http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NAWCA/index.shtm>

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) was passed in 1989 to provide matching grants for the acquisition, restoration, and enhancement of wetland ecosystems for the benefit of waterfowl and other wetland dependent migratory species. Administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, grants are available to nonprofit organizations, state and local agencies, tribes, and private individuals in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. Two types of grants are awarded; small grants for up to \$75,000 and standard grants for up to \$1 million. There is a

1:1 non-federal match requirement for each grant although the average match of successful proposals is over 2:1.

In December 2002, Congress reauthorized the Act and expanded its scope to include the conservation of all habitats and birds associated with wetlands ecosystems. Congress also increased the appropriation authorization of the grant program to \$55 million for FY 2003, with \$5 million increases to occur annually until FY 2007, when the appropriation cap will be \$75 million. In FY 2008 the Congressional appropriation to fund the grant program was approximately \$40.3 million. Additional program funding was expected to bring the total funding available to approximately \$84.4 million in FY 2008. The Congressional appropriation to fund the grant program in FY 2009 is approximately \$42.64 million.

Since 1990, over 3,500 partners have been involved in over 1,650 NAWCA standard and small grant projects, affecting 23.8 million acres of wetlands and associated uplands across the continent.

In FY 2009, South Carolina had two grants of \$1 million each approved through this program.

State Wildlife Grants

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

<http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/GrantPrograms/SWG/SWG.htm>

Created by Congress in 2001, the State Wildlife Grants Program is a matching grant program available to every state in support of cost-effective, on-the-ground conservation efforts aimed at restoring or maintaining populations of native species before listing under the Endangered Species Act is required. In order to maximize the effectiveness of this program, Congress required each state to develop a comprehensive wildlife conservation strategy for the



conservation of the state's full array of wildlife and the habitats they depend upon. These plans identify species and habitats of greatest conservation need and outline the steps necessary to keep them from becoming endangered. The State Wildlife Grants Program provides matching funds that are to be used to implement the conservation recommendations outlined in these state wildlife action plans.

Funds appropriated under the SWG program are allocated to every states according to a formula based on a state size and population. Since its inception in 2001, South Carolina has received nearly \$6 million in matching funds from this program.

***Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund:
Recovery Land Acquisition Grants
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service***

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/index.html>

Grants offered through the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (authorized under section 6 of the Endangered Species Act) fund participation in a wide array of voluntary conservation projects for candidate, proposed and listed species. Recovery Land Acquisition Grants provide funds to States for the acquisition of habitat, through both fee and easement, for federally listed threatened and endangered species in support of approved recovery plans. These funds must contribute to the implementation of a finalized and approved recovery plan for at least one listed species. South Carolina hosts 42 threatened and endangered species. Land acquisition projects that support the recovery of these species are eligible for funding under this program.

***National Fish and Wildlife Foundation -
Keystone Initiative Grants & Special Grants Programs
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation***

<http://www.nfwf.org/programs.cfm>

In 1984, Congress created the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to benefit the conservation of fish, wildlife, plants, and the habitat on which they depend by attracting diverse investments to conservation and encouraging locally supported stewardship on private and public lands. Through their Keystone Initiatives Grant Program, NFWF funds projects to conserve and restore bird, fish, and wildlife populations as well as the habitats on which they depend. The Foundation awards matching grants to projects that address priority actions laid out by their strategic plan, work proactively to involve other conservation and community interests, leverage funding, serve multiple objectives, involve strong partnerships, and fit into a larger ecosystem approach to conservation. The most successful applications will display the long-term environmental benefits of a project that yield high quality conservation returns.

Eligible grantees include federal, tribal, state, and local governments, educational institutions, and non-profit conservation organizations. Grants can range from \$50,000 to \$300,000 and typically require a 2:1 nonfederal match.

In addition to the Keystone Initiative matching grants, the Foundation administers a variety of special grant programs with specific conservation objectives, programmatic guidelines, and timelines. (See the Foundation's website for more information on these numerous grant opportunities or call NFWF's Eastern Partnership Office (202) 857-0166.)



Brownfields Program

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicat.htm>

If a property identified for acquisition or redevelopment is or might be a “brownfields” site, many programs and other benefits at the local, state and federal levels encourage its redevelopment. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Brownfields Program provides direct funding for brownfields assessment, cleanup, revolving loans, and environmental job training. In addition, legislation signed into law in 2001 limits the liability of certain contiguous property owners and prospective purchasers of brownfields properties, and innocent landowner are also afforded liability benefits to encourage revitalization and reuse of brownfield sites. EPA’s brownfields program provides several types of grants:

- **Assessment Grants** provide funding for a grant recipient to inventory, characterize, assess, and conduct cleanup and redevelopment planning and community involvement related to brownfield sites. \$200,000 grants (or to \$350,000 with a waiver).
- **Remediation Grants** are available for remediation of brownfield sites. These grants are limited to \$200,000 per site, with no more than three applications per entity. There is a 20 percent cost-share. NGOs are eligible to apply, but must have site control of the property. One site may qualify for two grants if pollutants include petroleum and non-petroleum contaminants.
- **Revolving Loan Fund grants** (RLF) provide funding for a grant recipient to capitalize a revolving loan fund to provide sub grants to carry out cleanup activities at brownfields sites. \$1 million per eligible entity, with a 20 percent cost share.

Annual grants are announced in approximately October

of each calendar year.

In an example of this funding, The Trust for Public Land received an EPA brownfields grant to assist in the capping of a landfill in Providence, R.I. on a 1.5 acre property that is now part of the Woonasquatucket River Greenway.

Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program (UPARR) National Park Service

<http://www.nps.gov/uprr/>

The Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program was developed as the urban component to the Land and Water Conservation Fund in 1978. UPARR grants are given to eligible cities and counties and are meant to assist disadvantaged areas. The grants fund rehabilitation (capital funding for renovation or redesign of existing facilities), innovation (funding aimed to support specific activities that either increase recreation programs or improve the efficiency of the local government to operate recreation programs), and planning (funding for development of recovery action program plans) for recreational services in urban areas. From the program’s inception in 1978 to 2002, it has distributed approximately \$272 million for 1,461 grants to local jurisdictions in 43 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. A local match of at least 30 percent is required for most grants. This program, however, has not been funded for the past seven fiscal years.

Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

<http://www.epa.gov/OWM/cwfinance/cwsrf/index.htm>

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/dwsrf/index.html>

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is charged with implementing both the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act, two landmark pieces of legislation whose respective goals are to clean up America’s waterways and



to ensure that we have safe water to drink. Conservation is an eligible activity under both laws. Both programs utilize “State Revolving Funds” or SRFs to fund projects that better water quality and enhance our drinking water supplies. Every year, Congress appropriates funds that are apportioned out to the states on a formula basis to fund the SRFs.

Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)

Through the CWSRF program, each state maintains a revolving loan fund to provide a source of low-cost financing for a wide range of water quality infrastructure projects. In FY07, Congress appropriated \$1.083 billion for the CWSRF, distributed among the states. Pennsylvania has received \$968 million for this program from 1989-2006. Federal funds must be matched by 20 percent non-federal funds.

The CWSRF program is available to fund a wide variety of water quality projects including all types of nonpoint source, watershed protection or restoration, and estuary management projects, as well as more traditional municipal wastewater treatment projects. Nationwide, 95 percent of these funds go toward infrastructure projects, but watershed protection projects are increasing.

CWSRF programs operate much like environmental infrastructure banks that are capitalized with federal and state contributions. CWSRF monies are loaned to communities and loan repayments are recycled back into the program to fund additional water quality protection projects. The revolving nature of these programs provides for an ongoing funding source that will last far into the future.

States have the flexibility to target resources to their particular environmental needs, including contaminated runoff from urban and agricultural areas, wetlands restoration, groundwater protection, brownfields remediation, estuary management, and wastewater treatment.

Land or easement acquisition is permitted with CWSRF funds as a method to reduce nonpoint source pollution. For example, California has already used \$112 million of its CWSRF funds to acquire over 29,000 acres of land for water quality benefits.

South Carolina’s FY 2008 allotment of CWSRF funds was \$7,041,600.

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program was established by the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments, under which EPA provides grants to States to establish revolving loan funds from which they provide loans and other types of financial assistance to public water systems for eligible infrastructure improvements. Since its inception, Congress has directed \$4.2 billion for the DWSRFs. In FY 2007, states were awarded \$822.933 towards their DWSRFs. Conservation easements and fee simple acquisition are permitted with these funds.

Since its inception, only \$2.7 million has been for acquisition to protect less than 2,000 acres of land under the DWSRF. However, EPA has begun a concerted effort to focus more attention on protecting “source water,” which they roughly define as “untreated water from streams, rivers, lakes, or underground aquifers which is used to supply private wells and public drinking water.” There is growing recognition that protecting the source from contaminants is often more efficient and cost-effective than treating drinking water later.

Loans under the DWSRF are typically low interest and can be repaid over 20 years. There is some flexibility given to the states to allow them to waive the principal repayment, offer negative interest rates or extend the loans to 30 years in specific hardship cases.



Up to 31 percent of these capitalization grants can be set-aside to administer the SRF and state source protection programs and to fund source water protection activities, including land acquisition. Up to 15 percent of the set-aside can be used for land conservation and voluntary, incentive-based protection measures, with no more than 10 percent used for a single type of activity, such as land protection.

South Carolina's FY 2008 DWSRF allotment was \$8,146,000.

***Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)
Federal Department of Housing and Urban
Development***

<http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/communitydevelopment/programs/entitlement/>

The Department of Housing and Urban Development provides Entitlement Communities Grants for the principal cities of Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), other metropolitan cities with populations of at least 50,000; and qualified urban counties with populations of at least 200,000 (excluding the population of entitled cities). CDBG funds may be used for activities that include, but are not limited to acquisition of real property; relocation and demolition; and construction of public facilities and improvements, such as water and sewer facilities, streets, neighborhood centers, and the conversion of school buildings for eligible purposes.

South Carolina received a direct allocation of CDBG funds of \$21,829,088 in FY 2008, while another 15 cities received individual allocations. For specifics on which community received CDBG funds, go to <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/about/budget/budget08/> and click on the relevant state.

An additional HUD program is the Economic Development Initiative program (EDI). Projects within this program are earmarked directly by Congress and are generally awarded

under \$300,000. Funds may go towards park acquisition and improvements, but directly compete with other economic, social, housing, and cultural development projects.

Department of Defense Buffer Program

<https://www.denix.osd.mil/portal/page/portal/denix/range/Compatible:REPI>

The Department of Defense's Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI) provides funding for the military to work with state and local governments, non-governmental organizations and willing land owners to help prevent encroachment from adversely impacting military facilities.

The military services are authorized to enter into agreements with conservation organizations and public agencies to acquire land or easements on land around military installations. The intent of the REPI program is (1) to limit development or property use that is incompatible with a military installation's mission and (2) to preserve habitat off base to relieve current or anticipated environmental restrictions that might interfere with military training on base. The Department of Defense can share real estate acquisition costs for projects that support these purposes. The legislation does not authorize land acquisition for active military use.

In FY 2009, \$56 million was appropriated for this program. The military services are also authorized to use existing operations and maintenance funds for this purpose. In FY 2009, BC/MCAS-Oak Mulligan in South Carolina received \$1,100,000 under this program.



**APPENDIX V:
SOUTH CAROLINA CONSERVATION FINANCE MEASURES**

South Carolina Conservation Finance Ballot Measures

Jurisdiction	Date	Description	Finance Mechanism	Conservation Funds Approved*	Status	% Yes
1) Beaufort County	11/7/2000	Bond Issue to purchase open land, development rights, and conservation easements	Bond	\$40,000,000	Pass	72.87%
2) Beaufort County	11/2/2004	5-year, 1 cent sales tax for capital improvements, a portion of which will address park and open space needs of county residents	Sales tax	-	Fail	49.87%
3) Beaufort County	11/7/2006	Bond to preserve natural land, farmland and water quality	Bond	\$50,000,000	Pass	75.55%
4) Charleston County	11/7/2000	Bond issue for parkland acquisition	Bond	-	Pass	50.39%
5) Charleston County	11/7/2000	Sales and use tax increase to fund farm, forest lands and open space protection, and mass transit and roads	Sales tax	-	Fail	49.49%
6) Charleston County	11/5/2002	Question 1; 25-year, .5¢ sales tax for roads, public transportation, parks and greenspace	Sales tax	-	Pass**	60.03%
7) Charleston County	11/2/2004	1/2 cent sales tax increase for transportation roads, open space and parks	Sales tax	\$221,571,200	Pass	58.71%
8) Greenville County	11/5/2002	1-year, 1% sales tax increase for parks	Sales tax	-	Fail	41.08%
9) Hilton Head Island	11/3/1998	Bond for land acquisition and parks	Bond	\$12,000,000	Pass	80.18%
10) Hilton Head Island	11/7/2000	Bond issue to purchase land for public use, parks and to manage growth	Bond	\$9,500,000	Pass	77.82%
11) Hilton Head Island	11/4/2003	Bond for land acquisition, preservation of historic sites, open space	Bond	\$15,000,000	Pass	83.48%
12) Hilton Head Island	11/4/2008	Bond for preservation of beaches open space and parkland	Bond	\$17,000,000	Pass	74.88%
13) Mount Pleasant	12/5/1995	4-mill property tax increase for conservation easements and preservation of strategically located wooded and open lands	Property tax	-	Fail	48.41%

*The "Conservation Fund Approved" column refers on to the amount designated for conservation and recreation purposes. In some instances a measure included funding for other projects or programs within the jurisdiction.

**Measure was subsequently overturned

Source: The Trust For Public Land's LandVote Database



APPENDIX VI: ADOPTION PROPOSALS FOR COMMUNITIES

This section includes one tab each for Chester County, the City of Chester, the Town of Lowrys, and the Town of Great Falls, the three municipalities within Chester County that are to be connected by the Carolina Thread Trail. It is recommended that each of these local governments adopt the Greenway Master Plan. Each tab contains an explanation of how adopting the plan (or portion thereof) will be consistent with existing plans and regulations; suggestions for how the particular jurisdiction can integrate the plan into their policies and regulations; and a map of the trails proposed for that jurisdiction.

Chester County

The Chester County Comprehensive Plan 2005-2025 is currently the guiding document for park and greenway planning in the county. There is no adopted greenway or trail master plan, nor a separate master plan for parks and recreation in Chester County. It is recommended that Chester County adopt this Greenway Master Plan for Chester County Communities (“Chester County Greenway Plan”) in its entirety to serve as the countywide plan for greenways and trails.

This would be consistent with the goals and objectives of the Chester County Comprehensive Plan, which expresses an interest in increasing the availability of family oriented recreational facilities and land for passive and active recreation.⁵⁶ The Chester County Greenway Plan identifies 130 miles of existing and potential new trails across Chester County, which present a wide variety of outdoor recreational opportunities for individuals and families. The Chester County Comprehensive Plan describes a general development goal of creating “land development patterns which promote the physical safety and well being of those living and working in the county and which blend with the natural beauty.”⁵⁷

Additionally, the Chester County Comprehensive Plan documents the county’s desire to “encourage clustering of new development in appropriate areas in order to protect open space and farmland.”⁵⁸ Adoption of the Chester County Greenway Plan could provide a meaningful way for the county to realize these goals by identifying areas preferred for protection and those better suited for development.

Existing Chester County land development regulations contain some provisions for open space conservation. Within the Conservation Subdivision district, a minimum of fifty percent of the developable land must be designated as undivided, permanent open space.⁵⁹ The land development regulations direct the Planning Commission to require that open space be dedicated or reserved for active or passive recreation where appropriate in order to provide three acres of recreation opportunity for every one hundred dwelling units in single family, multi-family, and high-density residential areas.⁶⁰

Although these requirements are not specific to trails or greenways, the proposed trail dedication requirements outlined in Section 1, Chapter 5 of the Chester County Greenway Plan, if adopted, would help assure that new developments include trails according to this plan. It is recommended that the Chester County land development regulations be amended to specify that when developing property as any subdivision type, if the property contains trails identified on this map, developers are required to dedicate the trail as part of the minimum open space designation. This could be included in Section 6.12 of the land development regulations. It is also recommended that Section 6.12 of the land development regulations be amended to specify that trail development and dedication in accordance with the Chester County Greenway Plan may be used to satisfy the open space recreation requirements. This

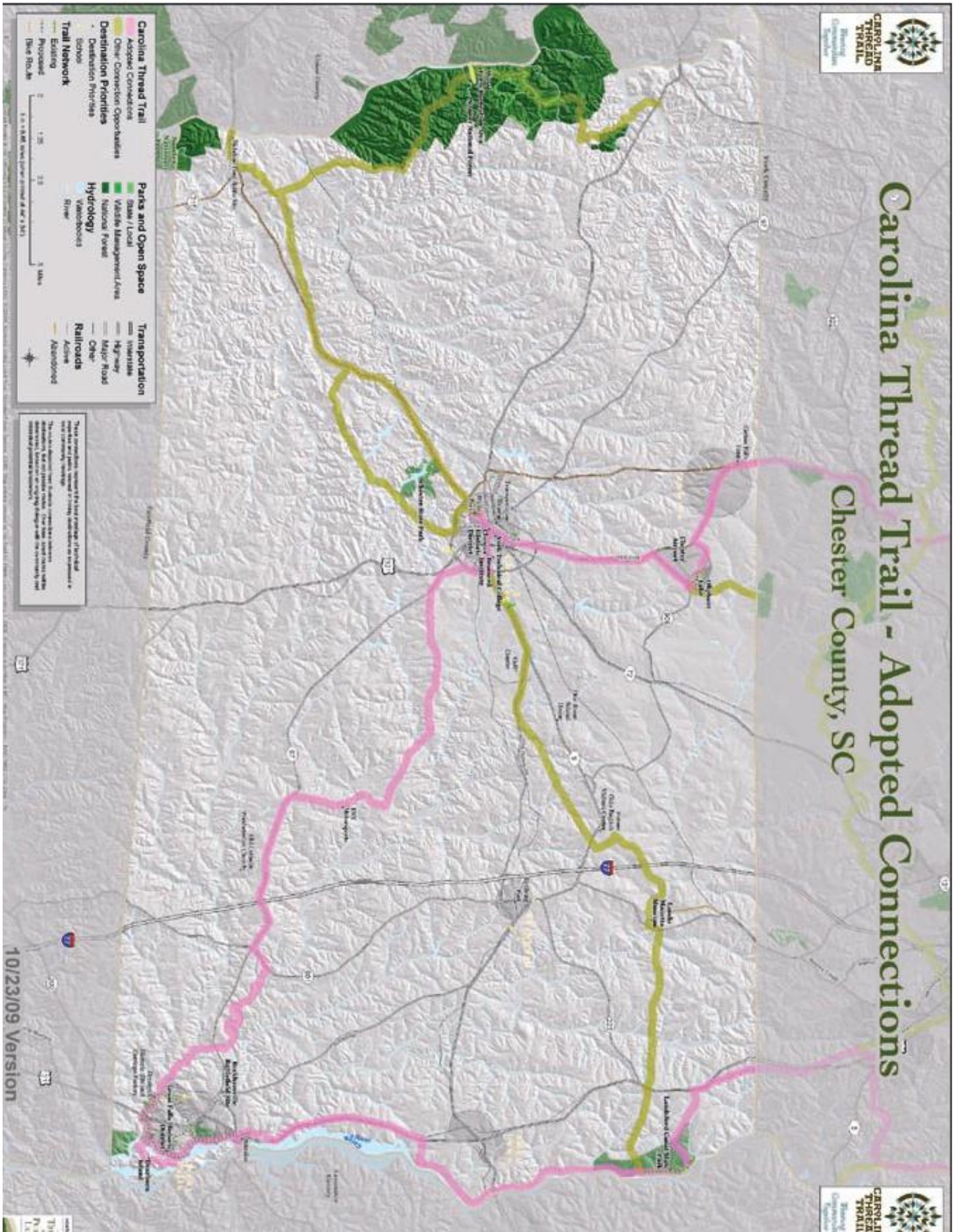


Figure A



will give developers specific guidance on where to build trails that would eventually connect with other trails beyond their properties, which means the trail network will ultimately be integrated and cohesive.

City of Chester

The City of Chester does not currently have a Comprehensive Plan or other guiding documents for park and greenway planning in the City. It is recommended that the City of Chester adopt this map and the text portions of this Chester County Greenway Master Plan that apply to the City of Chester to serve as the City's plan for greenways and trails.

The Chester County Greenway Master Plan is consistent with the City's existing objectives for development of parks and recreation facilities as set forth in the City of Chester Parks and Recreation Operational Effectiveness Direction Outline, created by the City of Chester's Recreation Commission and Department of Recreation. The Outline states a mission to "strive to develop and maintain parks and facilities; to preserve open/natural spaces; and to provide recreational programs and services which will enhance the physical, social, and emotional well being of all residents."⁶¹ Some key strategies to achieve this mission include allowing for orderly growth, acquisition and development of physical and natural resources, and utilizing the natural characteristics of the land while evaluating its park and recreation potential. The Outline reveals that the City is poised to continue developing parks, and considering whether to focus on providing community recreation or recreational tourism. The Chester County Greenways Master Plan, if adopted, offers an opportunity for the City to do both through a comprehensive and interconnected network of trails that would serve City residents and attract visitors and outdoor enthusiasts to the area. The Chester County Greenways Master Plan would

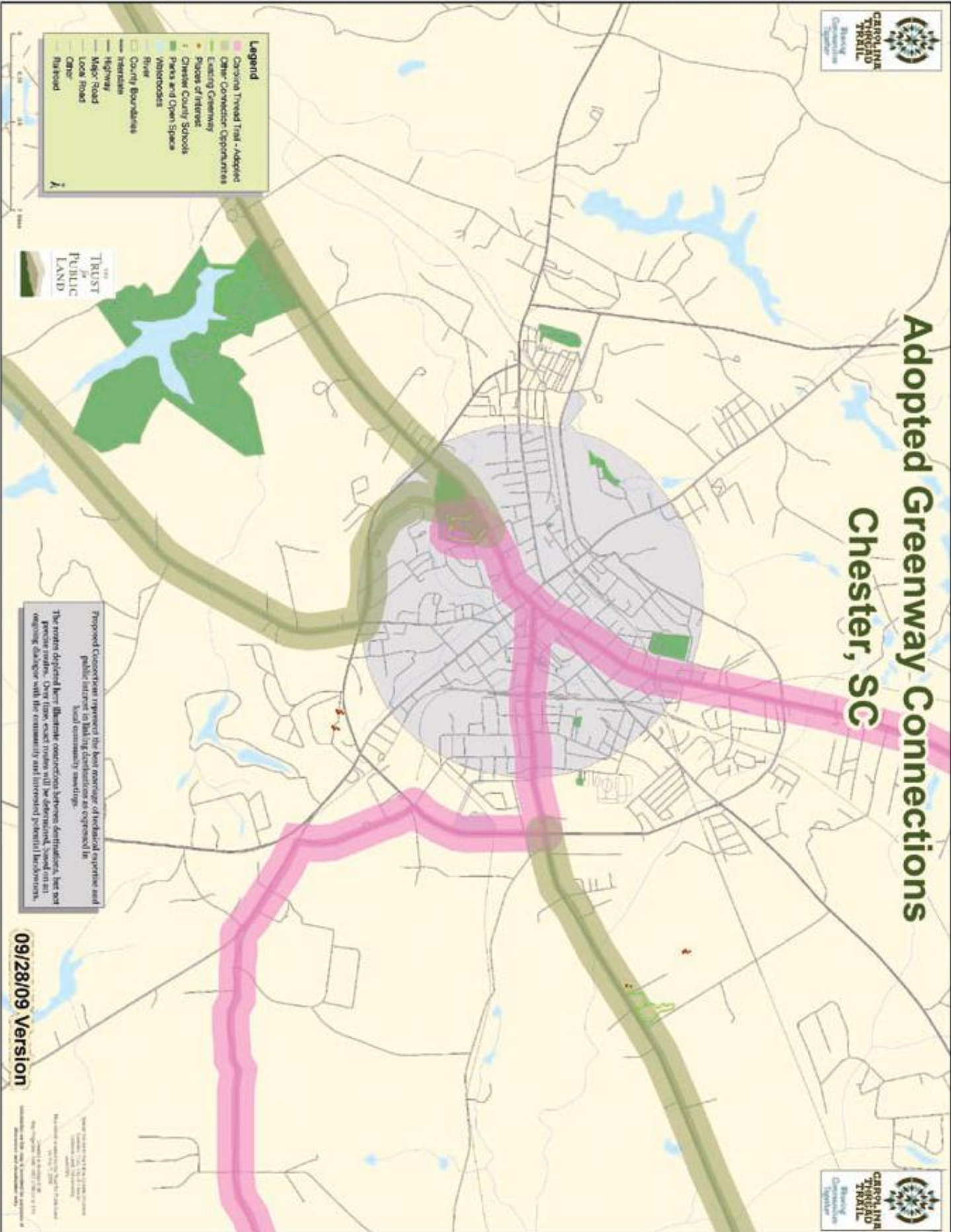
also help fulfill the Department of Recreation mission by providing a framework for maximizing nature-based recreational opportunities.

Adopting the Chester County Greenways Master Plan would also serve to meet community needs as identified by the City's 2005 needs assessment survey. The 2005 survey showed that residents most desire walking/jogging/biking paths, and also desire hiking trails and open space. If the Chester County Greenways Master Plan is adopted and implemented it would provide clear direction for developing such paths and trails in a cohesive and integrated manner.

The existing City of Chester Zoning Ordinance describes a planned development district intended, in part, to maximize benefits from open space.⁶² However, the existing planned development district regulations do not specify an amount of open space that must be designated or reserved within a planned development district, for example as a percentage of total land within the district, nor do they indicate that open space is to be reserved for active or passive recreation purposes. The zoning ordinance does require that 15% of the land area in clustered residential land uses must be open space.⁶³ The City of Chester could update the zoning ordinance to include trail dedication requirements outlined in Section 1, Chapter 5 of the Chester County Greenway Master Plan. This would help fulfill the intent of the planned development ordinance and assure that new developments include trails according to this plan, leading to an integrated and cohesive trail network. Similarly, the zoning ordinance could be updated to require trail dedication in order to meet the 15% open space requirement in clustered development land use areas where the property being developed contains trails identified on this map. The trail dedication requirements could also be added to other zoning districts to create a City-wide plan for development of trails as the area grows.



Adopted Greenway Connections Chester, SC



- Legend**
- Carolina Thread Trail - Adopted
 - Other Connection Opportunities
 - Existing Greenway
 - Phases of Interest
 - Chester County Schools
 - Parks and Open Space
 - Waterbodies
 - River
 - County Boundaries
 - Interstate
 - Highway
 - Major Road
 - Local Road
 - Other
 - Railroad



Proposed Connections represent the best coverage of technical expertise and public interest in linking destinations as expressed in local community meetings.

The routes depicted here illustrate connections between destinations, but not specific routes. Over time, each route will be determined, based on an ongoing dialogue with the community and anticipated potential landowners.

09/28/09 Version

Map prepared by the Trust for Public Land, Chester, SC. The map is a general representation of the information provided and does not constitute a guarantee, warranty, or endorsement of the accuracy or completeness of the information shown on the map. The Trust for Public Land is not responsible for any errors or omissions on this map.



Town of Great Falls

The Great Falls Community Master Plan serves as the town's guiding document for developing nature-based recreation outlets, such as greenways and trails, promoting economic growth in the community, and increasing the quality of life of its citizens.⁶⁴ As part of its strategy, the Great Falls Community Master Plan envisions fully implementing a system of trails and recreation opportunities. The Chester County Greenway Plan would enhance what is already included in the Great Falls Community Master Plan and the Town of Great Falls Trail Plan Map. It is recommended that the Town of Great Falls adopt this map – which is consistent with Town of Great Falls Trail Plan Map – and the text portions of this Chester County Greenway Plan that apply to Great Falls to serve as the Town's new trails plan and as a complement to the Great Falls Community Master Plan, updating Section 2.2.1 Connecting the Dots: The Great Falls Trail System of the Great Falls Community Master Plan.

Adopting the Chester County Greenway Plan would be consistent with the existing Great Falls Community Master Plan. For example, the Great Falls Community Master Plan describes an interconnected trail network linking the town, the Catawba River, and a river trail along the current CSX rail easement as key to town revitalization.⁶⁵ The Chester County Greenway Plan, if adopted, could extend the trail opportunities described in the Great Falls Community Master Plan to the region. The Great Falls Community Master Plan focuses on the need to spur economic development in Great Falls. It highlights eco-tourism prompted by the area's natural environment and nature-based recreation assets as one way to accomplish this.⁶⁶ Adopting the Chester County Greenway Plan supports this strategy and would reinforce the eco-tourism potential of the Town of Great Falls by providing connectivity to a regional network of trails.

There are currently no trail dedication provisions in the Town of Great Falls. The proposed trail dedication requirements outlined in Section 1, Chapter 5 of the Chester County Greenway Plan, if adopted by the Town of Great Falls, would help assure that new developments include trails according to this plan, which means that ultimately the trail network will be integrated and cohesive. This town-wide plan will give developers specific guidance on where they can build trails that would eventually connect with other trails outside of their properties.

Town of Lowrys

The Town of Lowrys does not have any specific documents that guide park and greenway planning. It is recommended that the Town of Lowrys adopt this map the text portions of this Chester County Greenway Plan that apply to Lowrys to serve as the Town plan for greenways and trails. Adoption of the Chester County Greenway Plan provides an opportunity to connect Lowrys with the City of Chester and Great Falls by trail.

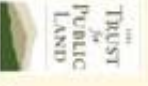


Adopted Greenway Connections Great Falls, SC



Legend

- Carolina Thread Trail - Adopted
- Other Connection Opportunities
- Existing Greenway
- Places of Interest
- Greener County Schools
- Parks and Open Space
- Waterbodies
- River
- County Boundaries
- Interstate
- Highway
- Major Road
- Local Road
- Other
- Railroad



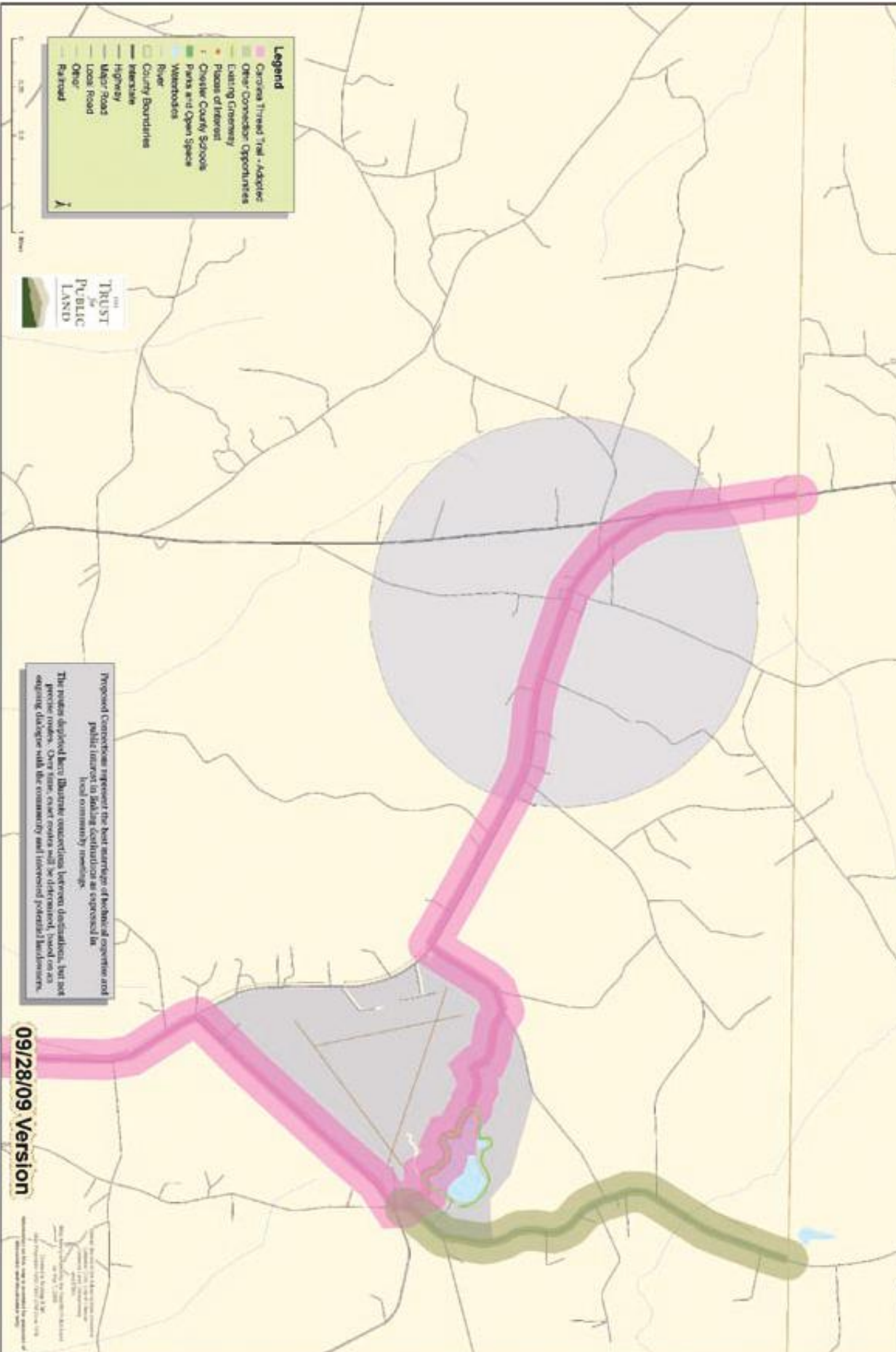
Proposed Connections represent the best advantage of technical expertise and public interest in linking destinations as expressed in local community meetings.

The routes depicted here illustrate connections between destinations, but are not proposed. Connections will be based on the ongoing dialogue with the community and interrelated potential linkages.

09/28/09 Version



Adopted Greenway Connections Lowrys, SC



Legend

- Carolina Thread Trail - Adopted
- Other Connector Opportunities
- Existing Greenway
- Places of Interest
- Charter County Schools
- Parks and Open Space
- Waterbodies
- River
- County Boundaries
- Interstate
- Highway
- Major Road
- Local Road
- Other
- Road



Proposed Connections represent the best marriage of technical expertise and public interest in seeking coordination as expressed in local community meetings.

The routes depicted here illustrate connections between destinations, but do not represent routes. Over time, exact routes may be determined, based on an ongoing dialogue with the community and interested potential landowners.

09/28/09 Version



Carolina Thread Trail - Adopted Connections

Chester County, SC

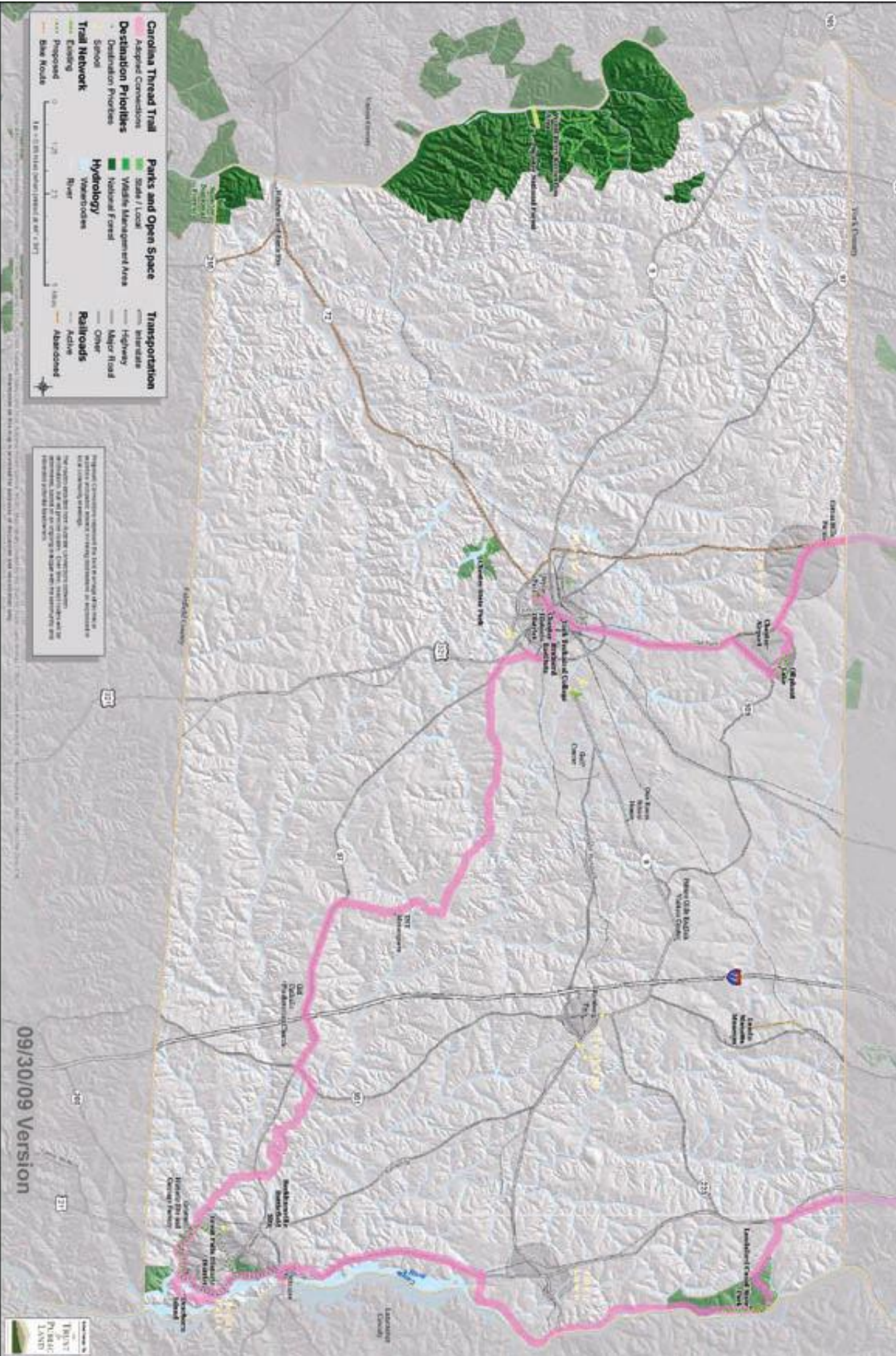
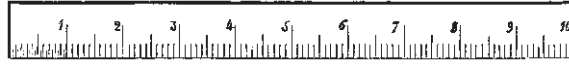


Figure B



FOOTNOTES

[1] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, “Physical Activity and Health: A Report of the Surgeon General” (Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, 1996), p. 3, <http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/sgr/pdf/sgrfull.pdf>

[2] “Chester County Comprehensive Plan,” April 2005, p. 71.

[3] York and Lancaster counties had been growing more rapidly, while Fairfield County experienced modest growth. “Chester County Comprehensive Plan,” April 2005, p. 5.

[4] “Chester County Comprehensive Plan,” April 2005, p. 5.

[5] “Chester County Comprehensive Plan,” April 2005, p. 12-13.

[6] U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts - <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/45/45023.html> U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts - <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/45/45023.html>

[7] IBID

[8] South Carolina Employment Security Commission – Labor Market Information, updated 5/21/2008 - <http://www.sces.org/lmi/Spotlights/Chester.pdf>

[9] Chester County Comprehensive Plan,” April 2005, p. 92.

[10] “Chester County Comprehensive Plan,” April 2005, p. 41.

[11] “Chester County Comprehensive Plan,” April 2005, p. 1.

[12] “Chester County Comprehensive Plan,” April 2005, p. 42.

[13] “Chester County Comprehensive Plan,” April 2005, p. 35.

[14] “Chester County Comprehensive Plan,” April 2005, p. 29.

[15] South Carolina Employment Security Commission – Labor Market Information, updated 5/21/2008 - <http://www.sces.org/lmi/Spotlights/Chester.pdf>

[16] “Chester County Comprehensive Plan,” April 2005, p. 46.

[17] “Chester County Comprehensive Plan,” April 2005, p. 27.

[18] IBID.

[19] “Chester County Comprehensive Plan,” April 2005, p. 83.

[20] “Chester County Comprehensive Plan,” April 2005, p. 2.

[21] “Chester County Comprehensive Plan,” April 2005, p. 51-52.

[22] IBID.

[23] These statistics were extracted from the National Land Cover Dataset, 2001, produced by the Multi-Resolution Land Characteristics Consortium. The remaining 4 % of Chester County’s land cover consists of shrubs, barren land, wetlands and water.

[24] “Chester County Comprehensive Plan,” April 2005, p. 70.

[25] South Carolina Agricultural Statistics Service, http://cherokee.agecon.clemson.edu/farm_num.pdf

[26] South Carolina Department of Resources: South Carolina Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species Inventory. Last updated January 2006.

[27] “Chester County Comprehensive Plan,” April 2005, p. 61.

[28] “Chester County Comprehensive Plan,” April 2005, p. 97.

[29] Much of the information on walking trails was derived from data gathered by Gloria Kellerhals, Managing Partner –The Westminster Group.

[30] “Chester County Comprehensive Plan,” April 2005, p. 58.

[31] Catawba River Canoe Trail Brochure

[32] City of Chester, Department of Recreation Comprehensive Plan – Parks and Facilities Map.

[33] City of Chester, Department of Recreation Comprehensive Plan, p.1.

[34] “Chester County Comprehensive Plan,” April 2005, p. 58.

[35] IBID.

[36] Information received from Sherron Marshall, Catawba Regional Council of Governments on 6-4-09.

[37] “Chester County Comprehensive Plan,” April 2005, p. 57.

[38] “Chester County Comprehensive Plan,” April 2005, p. 36.



[39] Groundtruthing is the practice of physically walking sections of land to observe any characteristics that might not be reflected in the GIS data and record any obstacles or reasons that the specific route (or routes, as multiple routes are often available within the 1/4 mile wide swath that appears on the concept maps) might not be suitable or that alternative alignments may be necessary.

[40] These were the factors the steering committee considered when selecting the three top-priority segments: political will of community where the segment is located; utilizing existing physical opportunities; trail planning already completed; low acquisition costs/willing landowners (if land is not already protected/public); likely public funding availability; relatively low construction and maintenance costs; best opportunities for long term maintenance arrangements; adjacency to an existing or planned trail; geographic and demographic distribution parity across the county; and high visibility.

[41] South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism also provides grants through the Recreation Trails Program, which is a federal funding program described in Appendix III.

[42] A non-competitive grant program is a program that does not submit a formal request for applications (RFA). Rather applications are submitted on an ongoing basis and approved by the 15th of every month. An application received after the 15th will not be approved until the next month.

[43] Sec. 51-17-20, 1976 S.C. Code of Laws.

[44] (Sec. 51-17-115).

[45] Conversation with Lisa Wickliffe, Upstate Forever and Margie Rish, SC Conservation Bank – May 2009.

[46] Figures in this section are estimated based on information available in February 2009.

[47] This represents the total amount of remaining debt the county could possibly issue.

[48] Only 5 percent of bond proceeds may be used for ongoing operations and maintenance costs. “Federal regulations governing the issuance of tax-exempt bonds limit the use of proceeds to capital purposes such that only a small fraction (up to 5%) of bond funds may be used for maintenance or operations directly related to the funded facilities.” Treas Reg 1.148-6(d)(3)(ii)(A)(5).

[49] This option is not available to municipalities.

[50] S.C. Statutes. § 4-10-20.

[51] South Carolina Department of Revenue, http://www.sctax.org/Tax+Information/Smallbus/business_tax_guide.htm.

[52] S.C. Statutes. § 4-10-310.

[53] See Article 9 of Title 6 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, which contains the “South Carolina Development Impact Fee Act.”

[54] Holley Hewitt Ulbrich, “Funding Government in South Carolina: Fees and Charges,” from *Public Policy and Practice*, USC Institute for Public Service and Policy Research, January 2003, available at: <http://ipspr.sc.edu/ejournal/assets/fees%20and%20charges.pdf>, p. 6.

[55] <<http://www.iac.wa.gov/iac/grants/lwcf.htm>>.

[56] “Chester County Comprehensive Plan,” April 2005, p. 39, 72.

[57] “Chester County Comprehensive Plan,” April 2005, p. 10.

[58] IBID

[59] Chester County Land Development Regulations, §2.2.

[60] Chester County Land Development Regulations, §6.12.

[61] City of Chester Parks & Recreation Operational Effectiveness Direction Outline, p. 1.

[62] City of Chester Zoning Ordinance, 1997, §2-603.2.

[63] City of Chester Zoning Ordinance, 1997, §2-606.7.

[64] Community Master Plan Report: Great Falls, South Carolina, 2007, p.4

[65] Community Master Plan Report: Great Falls, South Carolina, 2007, p. 80.

[66] Community Master Plan Report: Great Falls, South Carolina, 2007, p. 78.

