

COASTAL
CONSERVATION
LEAGUE

— FALL 2025 —

A win years in the making

LEWIS OCEAN BAY HERITAGE PRESERVE IN HORRY COUNTY



COVER IMAGE: Pitcher plants at Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve, Lily Abromeit

CONTENT & DESIGN:
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Friends,

I am a Mount Pleasant native who grew up in the historic Four Mile community East of the Cooper River. I have witnessed firsthand the impact that unbridled growth and development can have on our beloved environment.

In my role as Executive Director of the Coastal Conservation League, I am consistently reminded of how we are interconnected and dependent on this environment. Protecting these resources is vital.

In May, The Nature Conservancy announced the purchase of the 2,713-acre Chelsea property, which will be protected with a conservation easement held

by the Open Land Trust. Over the years, our team played a critical role in preventing this property from being annexed and intensely developed, partnering with, informing, and rallying community members to advocate against annexation, which would have brought unprecedented and incompatible growth to rural Jasper County.

The Conservation League's role in protecting Chelsea is the epitome of our advocacy work.

Our team is often first to engage on the ground, bringing community members to the table to express their views to local government. We are the boots on the ground, connecting folks with the most important information so they stay informed and engaged.

In the North Coast, our team was part of the first line of defense for the protection of Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve from a nearby hospital that would have severely limited the management of the preserve. Our team was on the ground, guiding this effort, and working alongside the community for many years.

This is really our call and mission at the Coastal Conservation League: to recognize these projects for what they are and call attention to them, in an effort to encourage change and better practices.

We are dedicated to a vision where we have clean air and clean water; where we have plentiful natural landscapes; and where we're able to protect that landscape for generations to come.

Every day, we work on that as our mission: to protect the natural environment of the coast of South Carolina.

Our work is never done, and it is more important now than ever to be engaged.

I am proud to be in this fight alongside you. Your generous financial support, along with your willingness to advocate alongside us, makes this work possible.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Faith Rivers James".

Faith Rivers James, J.D.
Executive Director

Recognizing Our Board of Directors

The Conservation League is excited to announce the appointment of two new members of the Board of Directors: Darcy Mauro and Duncan Mégroz. Darcy and Duncan share the Conservation League's passion for protecting our environment and the coastal plain. Their involvement will be a tremendous asset to the Conservation League and to the protection of the South Carolina coast.

The Conservation League also recognizes four board members for their tremendous dedication to our coast during their time on the Board. Steve Zoukis, Cynnie Kellogg, Ceara Donnelley and Andrew Carmines finished their terms after a collective 37 years of serving in their roles of Board of Directors.

"Thank you to Steve, Cynnie, Ceara, and Andrew for their years of service to the Coastal Conservation League," said Faith Rivers James, Executive Director of the Conservation League. "Our Board is instrumental in guiding our successes and we are thankful for the continued support of past and current board members."

A Major Conservation Win: Chelsea Protected

In May, the 2,713-acre Chelsea property in Jasper County was successfully acquired by The Nature Conservancy. This is a monumental win for conservation, rural land use planning and maintaining the character of Jasper County.

Over the past years, **the Conservation League played a critical role in preventing this property from being annexed into the Town of Ridgeland and intensely developed**, partnering with, informing, and rallying community members to advocate against annexation, which would have brought unprecedented and incompatible growth to rural Jasper County.

The Nature Conservancy announced the purchase of the property this past May, which will be protected with a conservation easement held by the Open Land Trust and, eventually, accessible to the public in the future as the first state forest in the region. In August, the USDA Forest Service's Forest Legacy program approved a \$23.4 million grant that will help the State Forestry Commission, along with funding from additional local, state and federal government sources, acquire Chelsea Plantation from The Nature Conservancy.

The Chelsea tract has high conservation value because of its proximity to the Broad River and Port Royal Sound. **Landscape-scale conservation like this helps ensure clean air and water for the entire region.** Once open to the public, Chelsea

State Forest will offer access for hunting, fishing, and spending time on the water, all of which are a quintessential part of the Lowcountry experience.

In 2019, the Chelsea property including South, West and North tracts, was sold to developers. In 2024, a developer requested to annex the property, trying to bring the land into the town of Ridgeland, which would have upzoned the land and allowed for large-scale development.

The plan proposed a development agreement that would have allowed over 2,000 homes to be built in a rural area of the county along Highway 462. Despite Rural Preservation zoning, a lack of infrastructure like roads, water and sewer, and significant community opposition, the developers intended to move forward with a plan to forever alter this landscape and community.

The Conservation League and community partners including Keep Chelsea Rural rallied together to advocate against the proposed annexation and development request for the property. We look forward to seeing the land transferred the State Forestry Commission so that the entire region can enjoy this special place.

OUR ROLE

The Conservation League's advocacy laid the groundwork for our land trust partners to purchase this important piece of land.

These grassroots advocacy efforts on the front end were essential in setting the stage for this conservation outcome. We couldn't do this critical work without the community's buy in.

What's Next for Jasper County?

While we celebrate this win, there is still more work to be done in Jasper County. In conjunction with opposing annexation, the Conservation League worked with the Town of Ridgeland to update their comprehensive plan, urging them to implement a growth boundary to better define where and how the town will develop in the future.

Several other large tracts have been targeted for development, including the 1,520-acre Tickton Hall property. Tickton was once considered a part of Chelsea and features 9,000 linear feet of river frontage, a family cemetery, and a publicly leased boat landing. The property has been managed historically for upland bird hunting.

Over the last few years, the developers have twice attempted to annex and upzone the property into Ridgeland. Earlier plans called for over 3,000 homes and up to 75 docks. Thanks to the community's advocacy, Town Council's decision was postponed in order to update the Town's comprehensive plan and conduct a feasibility study. However, the developers have again brought a new proposal to Town Council, despite the completed feasibility study revealing that such a large development on the Town's periphery could be costly.

While slightly reduced, the June 2025 development proposal still represents significant challenges. It includes upzoning with over 2,000 homes and 50 docks proposed. A large development on this pristine property risks stretching town resources thin and extirpating priceless natural and cultural resources.

A public hearing on the Tickton Hall annexation is scheduled for September 18, and we urge you to attend the meeting and give comments expressing your concern.

The Conservation League will continue to encourage Jasper County as it works to implement stronger rural zoning for the Euhaw District along Highway 462. Likewise, we'll continue to advocate for a conservation outcome for Tickton Hall, building on the momentum of Chelsea's protection.



*Learn more about why
this decision matters and
where we go from here*

A Long Fought Win for Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve

For years, the Conservation League, partners and passionate community members have fought for permanent protections from external threats and incompatible development next door to the 10,427-acre Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve in Horry County. This spring, the sale of the adjacent property where a new hospital was proposed marked the culmination of this work.

Located near Myrtle Beach, Lewis Ocean Bay is home to important wildlife, wetlands, and native plants — including the state’s only stable population of Venus flytraps. Management of this highly unique and biodiverse ecosystem requires prescribed burning, a precise and controlled practice of using fire to manage forest understory vegetation for both biodiversity and wildfire fuels reduction. Placing a hospital next door, which is a highly smoke-sensitive property, would have hindered the critical management of the preserve.

Ultimately, voices citing this as an inappropriate site for a hospital were heard. In February, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources was able to purchase the property, keeping it in conservation. **This places the 353-acre parcel of forested land adjacent to Lewis Ocean Bay under permanent protection from any further development.**

Historically, Lewis Ocean Bay has been threatened time and time again by encroaching development, with proposals for the construction of mines, a hospital and other infrastructure that would crowd the perimeter

of the heritage preserve, further complicating management and the preservation of this special place.

Already surrounded by four-lane highways and growing neighborhoods, these additional incompatible development threats risk the loss of Horry County’s unique natural resources and subjects nearby communities to increased wildfire risk and severity.

In 2020, the development request was made by Conway Medical Center to build a new hospital directly across from Lewis Ocean Bay. This location would be severely limiting to the already narrow window of opportunity for prescribed burning days, as a medical facility is a critical smoke-sensitive area. Mitigating smoke for a hospital is nearly impossible given its doors are open 24/7, 365 days a year, not to mention the critically ill patients needing to access the such a facility.

In February 2024, Horry County Council deferred the rezoning request that would have made building the Conway Medical Center project possible, and public opposition encouraged Conway Medical Center to enter discussions for selling the property to SCDNR.

Though the heritage preserve will see more challenges as growth continues in Horry County, **this is a major win for the conservation of Lewis Ocean Bay, the reduction of wildfire risk along the coast, and exemplifying successful prioritization of our state’s natural treasures.**

OUR ROLE

Partnering with other conservation groups, the Conservation League rallied community members together to show support for the protection of Lewis Ocean Bay from this threat.

The Conservation League built a petition asking Conway Medical Center to choose a different location — which was signed by nearly 25,000 people — and worked with local art activist Mary Edna Fraser to share the beauty of the preserve through a plein air painting.

Venus flytrap at Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve / Lily Abromeit



Why Do We Burn?

Have you ever seen photos of a fire crew forming a line in a forest and intentionally setting the underbrush on fire? Or maybe you've noticed a large smoke plume way up in the sky but know it is not a wildfire since the local news isn't reporting on it? This practice is called controlled burns or prescribed fire.

Quite literally, it is a prescription for the land and habitat. Prescribed burning is the carefully planned practice of setting fires in a controlled and contained area. Resource managers like the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) and South Carolina Forestry Commission (SCFC) use prescribed fires to maintain or restore the health of a forest or grassland ecosystem.

The complex process of safely burning land mimics natural processes of the forest, or what would naturally occur from lightning strikes if there were no human intervention or infrastructure in harm's way. Prescribed fire minimizes the risk of wildfire by burning off accumulated vegetation debris on the forest floor, which acts as fuel during a wildfire. Burning off this debris also allows the plant life to regenerate, bringing new life to the soil and reducing overcrowding of plants, making room for existing species to thrive and promoting native plant growth. Controlled burns require precise conditions, and a number of



Watch the ecosystem of Lewis Ocean Bay regenerate after a prescribed burn

factors like temperature, wind speed and direction, the burning history of the area, smoke-sensitive areas nearby, and date of the last rain have to be considered. Fire managers predict where smoke will travel based on fire weather reports from the National Weather Service and work to protect the health of nearby communities by minimizing the air quality impacts based on favorable conditions that make it more likely that smoke will not linger.

Prescribed fires help combat wildfire intensity and severity and should be a tool we accept and use commonly. However, prescribed fires, or controlled burns, are often challenged. Sometimes these challenges come from the environment, like too little or too much rain, or humidity that makes it harder to burn. But far more often, even though prescribed fires help protect human infrastructure and our natural resources, these challenges come from people and from smoke-sensitive areas – our built environment – being too close to the places that require burning

This is why it is critical that we choose wisely what we build and where it's located so we can limit incompatible development adjacent to our fire-dependent landscapes and conservation lands

Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve following a prescribed burn / Emmi Palenbaum





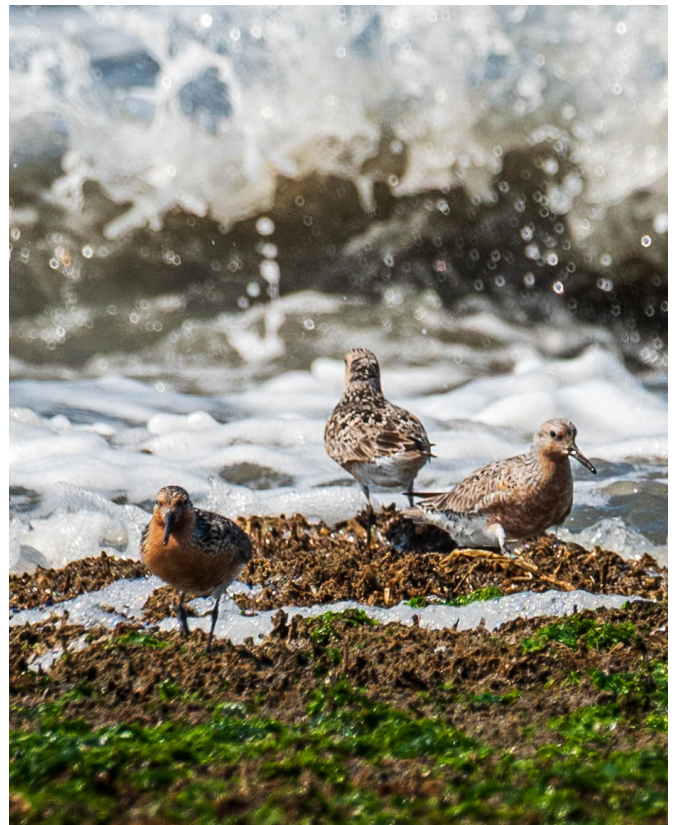
Red Knots Feasting on 2023 Legal Victory

In just two years since a milestone victory to stop horseshoe crab harvesting during a notable time of year, we are already seeing the positive impact of these new protections on the federally-threatened Rufa red knot. As a result of this victory, red knot sightings on Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge are beginning to increase.

Red knots make one of the longest migrations known in the animal kingdom, traveling up to 19,000 miles annually between their wintering grounds in South America and their nesting sites in the Canadian Arctic. To make this journey, they need a lot of fuel, stopping in South Carolina to forage on the nutrient-dense eggs of horseshoe crabs.

In the face of intense pressure on red knot populations from habitat loss and food source decline, a major legal win led by the Conservation League and partners in 2023 ensures protection from harvesting for Cape Romain and prevents harvesting on over 30 beaches that serve as critical foraging sites for red knots until at least 2028, leaving these wild spaces for the birds.

Our wildlife populations are easy to disrupt, but slow to recover, and we're just now starting to see the fruits of our efforts from years of advocacy and courtroom battles.



Red knots photographed by Kaitlyn Hackathorn



OUR ROLE

In 2023, after over a year of fast-paced, intense litigation, the Conservation League and our partners reached a milestone settlement agreement in response to our legal challenge against Charles River Laboratories and the S.C. Department of Natural Resources over the use of holding ponds used in the biomedical bleeding of horseshoe crabs.



Delivering boxes to Pamplico / Abby Ann Ramsey, Post & Courier

GrowFood Carolina addresses food desert

In September 2024, the community in Pamplico, South Carolina lost their only local access to fresh food.

Earlier that month, the local IGA, the only grocery store within a 15-20-mile radius, gave a month's notice to the community that they would be closing their doors.

This has essentially created a food desert for the community, leaving over 5,000 families without access to fresh, local produce or food supplies for nearly 6 months.

According to Steven Myers, Chairman for the Pamplico Center for Community Development, there are dollar stores, but those aren't grocery stores. Everyone within

a five-zipcode area now has to drive 20 miles or more to reach a grocery store.

A month later, a community member thought of a temporary solution: partnering with GrowFood Carolina. Immediately, GrowFood began taking action, and in October, GrowFood officially started delivering to Pamplico.

Since October 2024, GrowFood has been delivering local and fresh produce to the local senior center twice a month, easing the pressing need for fresh produce in the community.



*Read more about this effort
in a Post and Courier story.*

A Win for Transparency & Clean Water

In May, the Conservation League, in partnership with other conservation groups, secured a legal victory for transparency and accountability, ensuring that decisions about large, dense subdivisions relying on septic systems are not made behind closed doors.

The Circuit Court Judge issued an order in favor of the Conservation League and Charleston Waterkeeper that public notice of individual septic tank applications is necessary. The Judge ruled that public notice is needed for due process so that those impacted have the right to review and comment on septic tank permit applications before they're put in the ground.

In our coastal communities, development pressures and rising sea levels make management even more challenging. This is a critical step forward in informing communities and local governments about large septic-dependent subdivision developments in their neighborhoods.

In 2023, the South Carolina Environmental Law Project, on behalf of Charleston Waterkeeper and the Conservation League, filed a declaratory judgment action in state court against the Department of Environmental Services (DES, formerly DHEC). The action asked that DES apply South Carolina's coastal management policies for subdivision septic tank requests and provide public notice of these applications.

While the Judge did not find that coastal policy review is necessary, we are gratified that notice will put the public on alert for these large-scale septic tank applications.

This is a big win for clean water and the public's right to know. However, we know that more must be done to ensure that dense, clustered septic tanks do not harm our coastal waters and the communities that depend on them.

Leaving a Legacy: The Marcells

Nestled on a peaceful street in a quiet West Ashley neighborhood lies a home, not much different in size or style than those surrounding it. The beautiful marsh views make it spectacular, but the owners of this home are quick to point out that these views are more or less the result of pure luck; when they purchased the home a few decades ago, the marsh was considered undesirable and a bit of an eyesore. Even with a backyard that is the exact epitome of Lowcountry land and wildlife abundant, the true treasure of this home are the individuals that reside within.

Mike and Joanne Marcell are long-time Charleston residents and some of the earliest members of the Coastal Conservation League.

They initially became friends with Dana Beach and Jane Lareau through the Charleston Sierra Club and were more than thrilled by their idea to create a conservation organization specific to the Charleston area.

“We deeply admired their vision and what they wanted to do... we were kind of all in right from the beginning,” Mike said.

The Marcells have not only witnessed, but passionately supported all efforts from the Conservation League since the early days, citing everything from the ACE Basin to Growfood Carolina as personal standouts, and they believe the future of the League is brighter than ever.

“This is a ripe time for groups like the Coastal Conservation League to continue to make connections with all sorts of people. Charleston is one of the more progressive areas in the South, and the energy is here to harness,” the couple said. Mike and JoAnne know the Conservation League is only going to continue expanding its presence in different areas as the issues they take on impact people both locally and beyond.

In addition to their immeasurable dedication to the Conservation League since 1989, Mike and JoAnne Marcell have chosen to be a part of something that will allow their love of preserving and protecting the Lowcountry to be carried on for years to come: the **Conservation League’s Coastal Legacy Society**.

“At this phase of life, we decided we wanted to be a bit more rational about our charitable giving. We really just wanted to say okay, what do we want to leave? We want to support the work of groups that are working towards what we believe in, and the Coastal Conservation League is one of the best environmental groups that we give to,” JoAnne said.

It is the desire to align one’s values and resources to ensure a prosperous future that is the true meaning of a legacy, and Mike echoes this with certainty.

“You don’t really have to have a lot. To me, it is the moral and logical thing for people to try to work in favor of their values after their death with their resources,” he said. “Lives are defined by many things. Family, of course, is a big part, but it is not the only part. Ask yourself, what is important to you after you’re gone?”

On a perfect July morning, Mike reflected on his dedication to the Conservation League, “The Coastal Conservation League leads with intelligence, integrity, and effectiveness. I can’t imagine a better combination. And with this, the Conservation League is uniquely poised to accelerate and build advocates for both the present and future.”



**MAKE CONSERVATION
YOUR LEGACY**

Visit scccl.org/ways-to-give

Intentional Land Use in the North Coast

Sustainable growth recognizes and considers the balance between population growth and environmental impacts. Smart development calls for zoning ordinances that protect our natural and cultural resources while providing quality, low-impact housing options for our critical workforce.

THE DESTRUCTIVE HWY 22 EXTENSION

The SC Highway 22 Extension would forever alter traditional Gullah communities of Bucksport and Burgess, and spur the loss of rural farmland. The road would also impact hundreds of acres of the Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge, wetlands, streams, and the Waccamaw River itself. This could all have exacerbated existing flooding challenges faced by communities.

The South Carolina Department of Transportation completed the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in 2008 but did not complete the final EIS. The process had to be restarted in 2023, reconsidering all 16 possible routes. This spring, public meetings were held to present and discuss the draft purpose and need being prepared as part of the EIS for the proposed project. The Army Corps will host the next set of meetings focused on preliminary alternatives this fall.

GEORGETOWN & HORRY COUNTIES PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

In Georgetown, the recently adopted Georgetown County Comprehensive Plan Land Use Element can be an important tool for collaborating on ordinances that balance development with nature preservation. Georgetown County is growing, and as it does, more development pressures will be put on the land.

Community, traffic and housing costs will increase, and the rich cultural and historical identity of the county will be at risk. With increased development also comes a degradation of natural resources, loss of green space, and increased flooding due to inadequate stormwater infrastructure. The community must come together to ensure future growth is sustainable, equitable, and guided by a vision that protects the County's natural and cultural resources.

Similarly, neighboring Horry County has also begun a Comprehensive Planning review to incorporate a Resilience element and community input on how to adapt to growth trends. If you live or own a business in Horry County, you can help shape the future of Horry County by completing the short survey now through September.

OUR ROLE

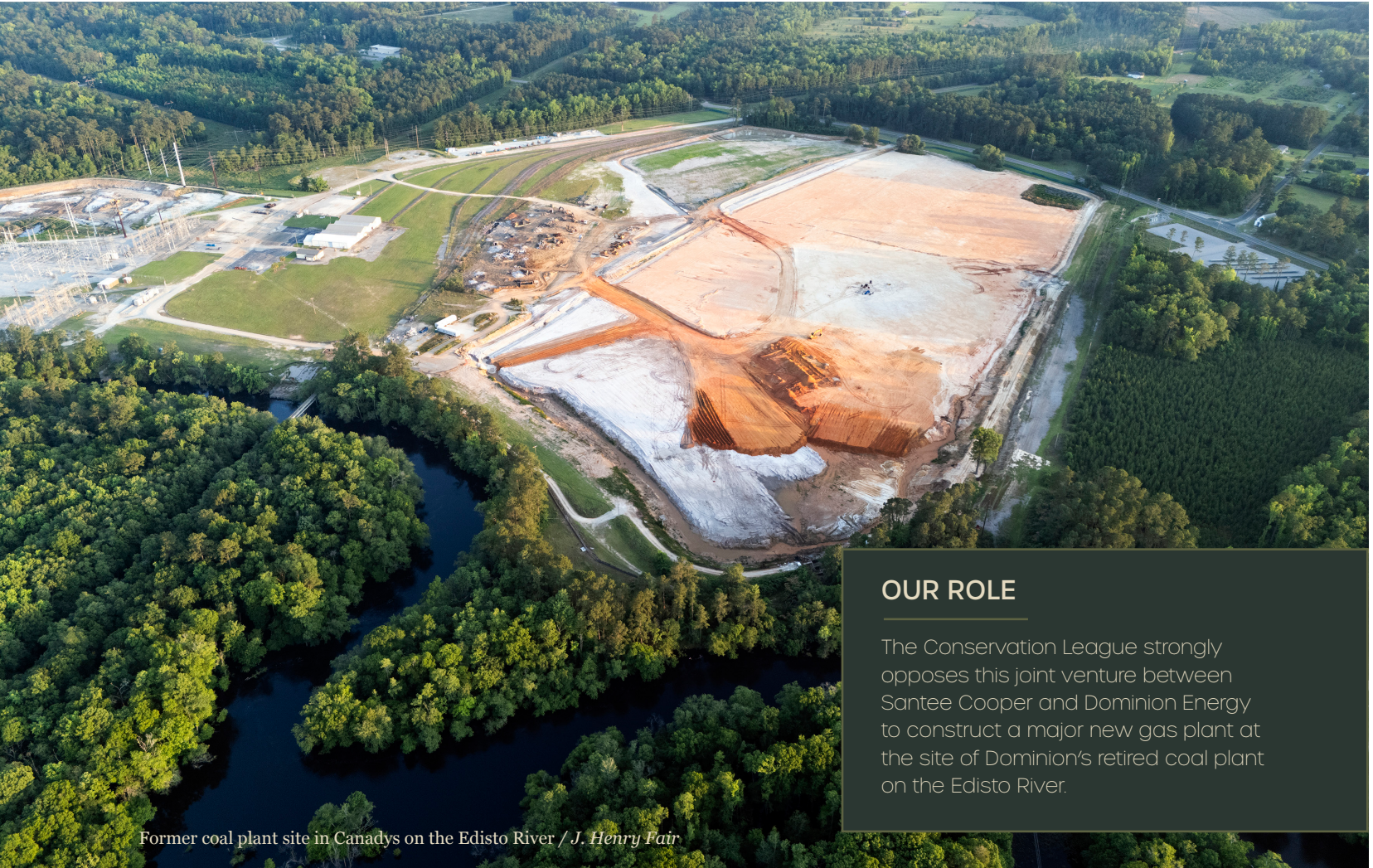
The Conservation League works in the North Coast to support smart development and intentional land use practices.

Our North Coast team is actively working to advocate against a 28-mile, 4-lane highway that would induce sprawl in western Horry and Georgetown Counties and increase traffic on the already crowded Highway 17 and throughout the Grand Strand and Waccamaw Neck.

The Conservation League, in partnership with South Carolina Environmental Law Project, Frances P Bunnelle Foundation, Pawleys Island Litchfield Business Association, and community leaders are partnering on a new public awareness campaign, **Thrive Georgetown**, designed to engage the community in intentional land use planning in Georgetown County.



*Get involved and
take the survey*



Former coal plant site in Canadys on the Edisto River / J. Henry Fair

OUR ROLE

The Conservation League strongly opposes this joint venture between Santee Cooper and Dominion Energy to construct a major new gas plant at the site of Dominion's retired coal plant on the Edisto River.

Protect the ACE Basin from Gas Plants & Pipelines

Santee Cooper and Dominion Energy have proposed building a 2,200-megawatt gas plant and pipeline in Canadys, just North of Walterboro, at the site of a shuttered coal plant.

After living near a coal plant for 50+ years, the health of Canadys residents and their local environment are threatened once again. While the plant would primarily serve demand growth from data centers, the public

would bear the consequences with air quality, wetland impacts, and financial risks. At more than four times the size of the original 490-megawatt coal facility, the gas plant would require major transmission upgrades and the construction of new interstate pipelines to transport the methane gas.



Stay informed about community events and ways to engage.

Spread the word to others

Share resources with your family, friends, and community members so they know what is at stake.

Advocate for your community

Because Santee Cooper is a public entity, they need approval to work with a private, investor-owned utility. The permitting process will include opportunities for public comment and hearings.

Engage with decision-makers

Reach out to your state representatives, senators, and local council members to let them know you oppose the proposed gas plant and pipeline.

Share your thoughts with the media

Submit "Letters to the Editor" or opinion pieces to local newspapers to share your opinion with a broader audience.

Creating Better Local Planning Tools

Across the state, large, planned developments are being approved by municipalities without considering the infrastructure needed to support these massive projects. This leads to increased traffic, more frequent flooding, a higher demand for water, sewer, and drainage upgrades, overcrowded schools, and stress on emergency services. To prevent the irreversible loss of rural character and disruptions to public services, concurrency can be used to navigate growth pressures.

Concurrency, also known as Adequate Public Facilities Ordinances, refers to the practice of requiring adequate public infrastructure and services to be in place before any approval of new developments in the area. It is intended to manage growth and provide more holistic and thoughtful planning instead of allowing major strains on infrastructure in an area not prepared for it. This helps ensure a consistent quality of life for existing residents and decreases the frequency of large, expensive, and retroactive public infrastructure projects funded by the taxpayer.

THE CAINHOY PENINSULA

If concurrency had been adopted by the City of Charleston, the Cainhoy Peninsula development, which allows for the construction of 18,000 residential housing units, would have been required to follow more thoughtful and intentional planning protocols.

The traffic impact assessment for the proposed widening of Clements Ferry Road projected that the road would fail by 2040 as a result of the Cainhoy peninsula buildout. The same result was identified for nearby Highway 41. **If the City of Charleston had adopted concurrency at the time of the plan's review, this development would not have been approved** as proposed, given that existing public infrastructure was deemed inadequate.

The Planned Unit Development was approved in 2014 for up to 18,000 housing units — twice the size of Daniel Island — but the realities have changed since then and the plan should change accordingly.

Additional transportation projects will likely be needed in the future to attempt to accommodate growth as surrounding communities will undoubtedly feel intense exacerbated of existing traffic issues. These will be at the expense of taxpayers, many of whom are opposed to a development of this size in this environmentally-sensitive location.

The Cainhoy plan calls for the filling of nearly 200 wetlands on the peninsula and the placement of most residences within the FEMA-designated floodplain. This would strip the naturally functioning floodplain of its ability to store, filter, and drain floodwaters, inevitably resulting in the inundation of people's property, yards, and roads. **Concurrency initiatives might help local municipalities consider funds for flood mitigation and adaptation ahead of time so that taxpayers are again spared such costly fixes to these avoidable issues.**

This sort of proactive analysis would have also ensured that emergency personnel were adequately present and staffed to service this amount of growth prior to any development in order to promote and maintain public safety. Given the potential for flooding and inundation in this region, there are many public safety related concerns for residents if emergency services are not available in a timely manner, or unable to access those in need. It is in these ways that concurrency provides protection to existing communities from incompatible development and intense growth pressures.

WHAT IS NEXT FOR CONCURRENCY?

Two concurrency bills, S. 227 and H. 4050, were introduced in the legislature this year. Both aim to allow local governments to add concurrency to their toolboxes for more holistic planning. A state bill, if passed, would enable local governments across South Carolina to develop a concurrency program if desired.

We hope continued support from bill sponsors Representative Spencer Wetmore of Charleston and Senator Tom Davis of Beaufort and Jasper, will help advance this effort during the 2026 legislative session. South Carolina continues to lead the country in growth, and we must equip local municipalities to manage it responsibly.

OUR ROLE

Though already approved, the Conservation League team is working to advocate for the City of Charleston to find a way to reconsider the current Cainhoy Development plan with a concurrency lens.

The Government Relations team and program staff will continue to advocate for concurrency legislation during the next legislative session.

Bluffton Passes First Wetland Ordinance in South Carolina

In 2023, a U.S. Supreme Court ruling altered critical wetland protections, significantly narrowing the guiding definition of qualifying wetlands under the Clean Water Act. In our rapidly growing state, 37% of South Carolina's wetlands lost protection in the Sackett decision, leaving these environments highly vulnerable to development.

Like many other coastal communities, Bluffton has witnessed firsthand the loss of wetland acreage.

In March 2025, Bluffton became the first South Carolina municipality to vote in support of a wetlands protection ordinance in response to the national decision.

In June, the Bluffton town council voted unanimously to pass the ordinance. This is a critical first step toward local protections.

As rapid growth and rising sea levels continue to impact the coast, preserving wetlands is essential to mitigate storm impacts, maintain biodiversity, and filter pollution.

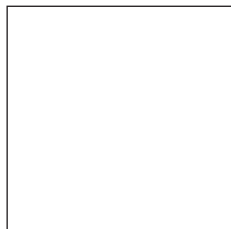
With this great news, we are optimistic that these new local protections will serve as a model ordinance for other jurisdictions to adopt.

Wetlands in Jasper County / *Paul Nurnberg*

OUR ROLE

The Coastal Conservation League and the South Carolina Environmental Law Project helped to champion the ordinance, encouraging members of the public to engage on this key issue, and are also defending critical components of the ordinance, such as a mandatory 50-foot buffer around wetlands.





COASTAL
CONSERVATION
LEAGUE

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WE ADVOCATE TO PROTECT THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
OF SOUTH CAROLINA'S COAST FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL.

