

YORK COUNTY FOREVER COMMISSION -- Landowner Information --

TYPES OF PROPERTY IN WHICH YCF IS INTERESTED:

The Commission considers property that meets at least one of the following classifications:

Agricultural Resources: The property is currently productive or easily adaptable to suitable and sustainable agricultural use; **or** the property has soils appropriate to support agricultural operation; **or** the property includes agricultural land of statewide or regional significance; **or** the size of the tract supports an agricultural operation or farm community; **or** the property is currently under forest management and production; **or** the property's physical features support forest resource management.

Historic or Cultural Resources: The property includes a National Register of Historic Places (NR) site, NR eligible or locally significant site or structure; **or** the property is associated with a significant historical or cultural event; **or** structures on the property represent a unique or indicative style of architecture.

Scenic/Open Space Resources: The property provides or protects a scenic vista or backdrop or other significant resource; **or** the property is visibly prominent from or adjacent to one or more public lands, trails, or roads (e.g. Carolina Thread Trail, Western York County Scenic Byway); **or** the property makes a significant contribution to the rural character of York County; **or** the property provides important open space for the community.

Natural Resources: The property includes a verified wetland¹ **or** the property provides connectivity to or a habitat for threatened¹ plant or animal species; **or** the property provides an opportunity for environmental education; **or** the property has frontage on a lake, pond, stream, or river of county significance; **or** the property is part of a watershed or groundwater recharge area.

Outdoor Recreational Resources: The property is or will be used for passive outdoor sportsmen recreational activities (e.g., hunting, fishing, etc.); **or** the property is or will be used for greenways, hiking, or natural trails; **or** the property provides access to outdoor recreational or educational attraction or area; **and** the property will be reasonable accessible to the public.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS?

Anyone interested in working with the Commission to conserve their property should complete and submit a *Landowner Conservation Statement of Interest (SOI)* form to Commission staff. YCF will determine if the proposed project meets its program guidelines. If your property is considered to be ineligible, you will receive written notification of the reason(s). If your property is considered to be eligible, a meeting will be scheduled with you to discuss the property and your request in detail. The Commission will then assess and rank your project based on our property criteria checklist and then recommend that York County Council approve the agreement and funding amount. A presentation may be made to County Council by planning staff, with a request for approval. Council approval is required before any funding or documents can be finalized. All negotiations are confidential and property owners are free to withdraw their property from the process at any point. Please note: ***The review process for a successful project can take eight months to a year from submission of SOI through project funding and document finalization. Final funding and document recording dates are subject to schedules of all project partners.***

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For more information about the YCF please contact Trish DeHond (Open Space Planner and Staff Liaison to the York County Forever Commission) at 803.909.7221 or Patricia.DeHond@yorkcountygov.com.

¹ as identified by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources