



**EAST COOPER
LAND TRUST**
Our Present for the Future

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EAST COOPER LAND TRUST CONSERVES TWO PROPERTIES WITHIN URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY

Mount Pleasant, SC (January 16, 2019) - East Cooper Land Trust recently accepted two land donations from Crescent Homes. Donations by organizations such as Crescent Homes are critical because they ensure that, as homes are constructed in the Charleston area, their neighboring natural and historic landscapes are conserved and intertwined.

The “Avenue of Oaks Park” is a half-acre parcel designated to be used as a passive recreational park near a new residential development in West Ashley. Three grand oak trees exist on the property and three others overhang the parcel. The oaks are part of a magnificent oak allée canopy. Plans are in the works for the entire 2-acre oak allée to be placed under conservation easement with East Cooper Land Trust. The homeowner’s association will have the option of creating a community garden and trails on the Avenue of Oaks Park parcel.

The “Somerset Oaks” parcel is 11.04 acres that serves as a scenic buffer and a significant natural habitat for wildlife and plants in Mount Pleasant. The plan is to work with the homeowner’s association to enhance their enjoyment of the area with a walking trail across the property.

Ted Terry with Crescent Homes says, “As a local company we strive to develop neighborhoods and build homes which seamlessly fit into the beautiful lowcountry landscape. Growth is imminent, but we can help mitigate our overall impact by ensuring the necessary conservation of natural spaces, like that of these two parcel donations, so that future and current community members can enjoy and benefit from what makes Charleston so special.”

In addition to securing these lands under permanent protection from development, other benefits include their potential to reduce flood damage, their function as a screen to block the view of development from the road, and both their recreational and environmental purposes for community conservation.

East Cooper Land Trust Executive Director Catherine Main says, “While it may appear that there is not much left to protect, there are still some natural areas remaining within our urban growth boundary, conserving natural lands in neighborhoods where children can play and climb trees is critical to children’s health and well-being.”

Both parties look forward to the future these properties create through their partnership and hope it will inspire additional projects that balance imminent growth with natural spaces.

ABOUT

East Cooper Land Trust is a community-supported nonprofit organization devoted to conserving natural spaces, and thus the quality of life for current and future generations.

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