

**Dare County Tourism Board
Outer Banks Visitors Bureau
Green Space – Open Space Preservation of Land Grant
(hereinafter referred to as “GOSPL”)**

Program Intent

Dare County Tourism Board’s Green Space – Open Space Preservation of Land, GOSPL, was established to financially assist Dare County Governmental Units in a joint effort to preserve and protect the lands (hereinafter “land”) within Dare County for current and future generations. The proposed program authorized and guided by *North Carolina GS 121-34 et.seq.*, known as the “Historic Preservation and Conservation Agreements Act” (hereinafter “the Act”).

The Dare County Tourism Board (hereinafter “DCTB” or Board”) makes funding for GOSPL available by an annual appropriation from interest earned in its Special Revenue Fund. The Special Revenue Fund is funded by ¼ of the 1% occupancy tax and 1% prepared meal tax revenues generated annually.

Local governments seeking application for Green-Open Space funding must meet the following criteria:

1. Proposed GOSPL land must lie within the boundaries of Dare County
2. Proposed GOSPL land shall not be currently protected by or subject to preservation restrictions or covenants issued by other entities, including, but not limited to, conservation organizations, municipalities, federal, state or county governments or agencies.
3. Proposals must include the intent to purchase undeveloped land or reclaim developed land, including, but not limited to the demolition and removal of all unnatural structures other than those needed for drainage, utilities, delivery of passive recreation activities (see #5).
4. Proposed GOSPL land must adjoin a public right of way and be bordered by significant residential or commercial development.
5. Proposed GOSPL land must be open to the public and may be used for passive recreation, pending mutual agreement. For example and not to be construed as a limitation, these activities might include amateur study of flora and fauna, walking, picnicking and bird watching.
6. The applicant will record at its cost an easement or other restriction drafted by agents of the Board outlining the specific protections and restrictions on land. Said restrictions shall run with the land into perpetuity unless terminated or released as provided in said document.

7. The applicant shall pay the attorney fees of The Board in the drafting of the easement or restriction document.
8. Any such conservation agreements entered into must be in conformance with the Act. DCTB Special Revenue Funds may be provided upon the approval of the DCTB Board of Directors, as a reimbursement up to 50% of the direct land costs. Grants will be paid as a reimbursement after closing and recordation of the deed into the applicant and the easement or restriction document in favor of the Board. The following are not subject to reimbursement: Closing costs, legal fees, studies, commissions, real estate taxes, assessments or fees, inspections, and any other costs not directly associated with the actual cost of land are not eligible for funding.

Entities eligible for financial assistance through the GOSPL program are listed below; no third party applications will be accepted. Grant cannot be transferred or assigned to a third party. Local governments applying for GOSPL grants must have conducted an appraisal of property, including documentation identifying wet lands and/or an environmental impact study if property has history of environmental concerns. Approvals from all parties with legally established interests in proposed GOSPL lands must agree with all terms and conditions outlined. Burden of compliance rests with the applying organization. The governmental agency retains all liabilities associated with property and the Dare County Tourism Board is held harmless and does not assume responsibility of condition or state of land.

County of Dare	Town of Kill Devil Hills
Town of Duck	Town of Nags Head
Town of Southern Shores	Town of Manteo
Town of Kitty Hawk	

Appropriate sign recognition of contribution made by the Dare County Tourism Board must be constructed at the site. Signage is to include the Board logo and wording such as “Project Funded In Part By The Dare County Tourism Board.”

Applications may be requested at any time, completed proposals must be submitted by the 1st business day of the month to the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau Office in Manteo, North Carolina. Proposals will be reviewed quarterly. Any postal service or hand-delivery may make delivery Monday through Friday 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM (excluding any holiday). A receipt of delivery is recommended. One original and 15 copies of the application and any collateral material are required.

All GOSPL proposals that meet the established intent and criteria 1 through 5 will be forwarded to the Steering Committee for consideration. The Steering Committee will make its recommendations to the full Board of Directors on a quarterly basis.

Applying organization will be notified within three (3) business days of Board of Director’s meeting on acceptance or rejection of grant award.