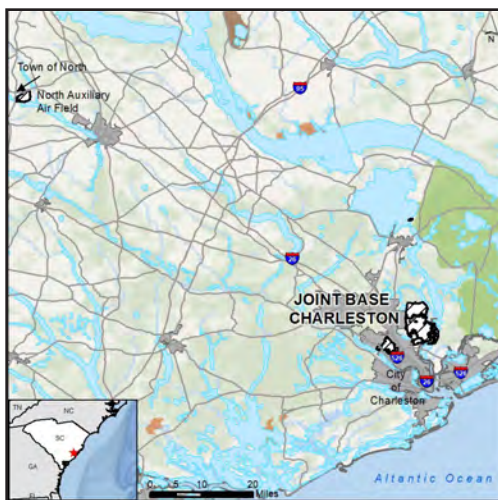




## JOINT BASE CHARLESTON

**Located about 65 miles northwest of Joint Base Charleston near the rural Town of North, South Carolina, North Auxiliary Air Field (NAAF) houses one of the only airstrips with adequate darkness to support night assault training operations.**

These operations include assault landing as well as personnel and cargo airdrop exercises essential to the training of C-17, C-5, and C-130 pilots. Although NAAF is remotely located, its proximity to Columbia and Charleston subjects it to encroachment pressures caused by sprawling development.



With the help of its partners, NAAF will acquire conservation and restrictive use easements surrounding the installation to ensure that agricultural and low-density residential properties remain compatible. This project will safeguard night vision and military drop operations by reducing the potential for light pollution. These

easements will also help landowners maintain their livelihood at a time when agriculture is declining in the area.

NAAF has partnered with Ducks Unlimited for this project to participate in the Southeast Wetlands Initiative. The goal of this initiative is to restore and enhance lands containing key waterfowl habitat including grasslands, managed coastal wetlands, bottomland hardwood forests, and freshwater marshes. The land surrounding NAAF's airfield is predominantly open space, some containing rivers and marshes — ideal habitats for local bird species — making it a well-suited addition to this initiative.

### BENEFIT SUMMARY

#### COMMUNITY

- Preserves open space and agricultural land
- Provides habitat for local species
- Provides recreational opportunities

#### MILITARY

- Prevents flight operations from additional noise complaints
- Mitigates noise concerns and improves operational safety
- Preserves aviation maneuver and night flying training that produce significant noise or require minimal light pollution



*Globemaster III from the 437th Airlift Wing at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., performs a combat landing during an incentive flight recently (top). Airmen volunteer to cleanup the marsh at Waterfront Park for trash and debris carried in from the ocean (bottom).*

### KEY PARTNERS

- Ducks Unlimited
- Charleston County

### FAST FACTS THROUGH 30 SEP 2022

- ACRES PRESERVED:  
363
- TRANSACTIONS CONDUCTED:  
2
- TOTAL FUNDS EXPENDED:  
\$390 Thousand
- PROJECT STATUS:  
In Progress

### CONTACT

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