



Your land trust. Your quality of life.

NEED FOR LAND PROTECTION

Catawba Lands Conservancy is a nonprofit land trust that permanently protects land, water and wildlife habitat to enhance your quality of life.

Why is it important to conserve land today in the Southern Piedmont?

- The Charlotte metro region loses 41 acres of open space a day to other land uses (Piedmont Green Plan, 1998, projected over a time span from 1980 to 2020.)
- Mecklenburg County lost more than a third of its forest cover between 1990 and 2002 (U.S. Forest Service and N.C. Department of Forest Resources, 2003.)
- Union County, just south of Charlotte and in the Conservancy's service area, is the 24th fastest growing county in the nation (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000.)
- More than 86 percent of Mecklenburg County residents said it was highly or somewhat important to set aside land now in the Charlotte region for the future (UNC Charlotte Urban Institute, 2004.)

What are some benefits to protecting land?

- Thoughtful land conservation is the best way to protect our land, water and wildlife habitat from irreversible changes in land use.
- Balancing development with land conservation is essential in maintaining a high quality of life in our region and fostering economic growth.
- Protecting land and water allows our ecosystems to function properly and saves in water treatment and other costs.
- Protected lands enhance our community in numerous ways. They provide areas for passive outdoor recreation and education, while preserving the landscapes that make the Southern Piedmont so attractive for residents and visitors.

What role does Catawba Lands Conservancy play in protecting natural lands?

- The Conservancy is the only land trust serving Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, and Union counties. It is part of a network of 24 land trusts statewide.
- It works with private landowners who voluntarily wish to protect their land.
- The Conservancy's land conservation is permanent, and it is responsible for stewarding its protected lands in perpetuity.
- It employs a variety of land protection tools to identify significant lands and acquire them efficiently and effectively.
- It provides a substantial public benefit to all who live and work in the Charlotte region with little or no cost to them.
- The Conservancy partners with individuals; businesses; other land trusts; local and state governments; foundations; and many others to maximize its impact to the Southern Piedmont.