

## Conservancy protects 300 acres in Gaston and Lincoln

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By Joe DePriest

The Charlotte-based Catawba Lands Conservancy has announced the conservation of about 300 acres of farm and forest lands in the Stanley area spanning Gaston and Lincoln counties.

The property is owned by the Killian family who has donated conservation easements to protect the land in perpetuity.

"My family has seen a lot of change in the area over the years and never wanted our land turned into a housing development," Kay Killian said in a release. "By establishing conservation easements with the Conservancy, we can keep our family properties and ensure that they will remain farm and forest land forever."

The protected land encompasses open fields and mature forests and is adjacent to the Mountain Island Educational State Forest, which borders Mountain Island Lake. The project adds to a landscape-scale conservation areas now totaling 1,300 acres, which provides significant protection of water quality and wildlife habitat, according to the Conservancy.

The Killians have protected two other conservation easement projects with the Conservancy: 146 acres of Killian Forest in 2003 and 107 acres of farmland in 2000.

During 2010, the Conservancy has protected more than 1,400 acres of land in the region and recently passed the 10,000 acres milestone for total lands protected since the organization was launched in 1991.

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2010/12/29/1941905/conservancy-protects-300-acres.html#ixzz1AdsJxIG0>