



LAND *for* TOMORROW

Land and Water Conservation in North Carolina

Protecting this state's most important economic assets

Land and water are North Carolina's most important economic assets. Four of the major engines of North Carolina's economy – agriculture, tourism, forestry and the military – all depend on natural and working lands and clean water.

Protecting these vital natural resources is essential to ensure that these vital economic sectors, and others, will continue to flourish and provide jobs for North Carolinians.

Investing in green infrastructure

In North Carolina, conservation organizations, communities, private landowners and the state have worked together to build a green infrastructure for North Carolina's economy by protecting a variety of land and water resources:

- Watersheds – reducing the cost of water treatment for local governments, saving money for business and residential customers.
- Water and sewer right-of-way – enabling communities across the state to expand and upgrade their wastewater and storm water systems to eliminate pollution of surface waters.
- Military buffers – protecting military investment in North Carolina to ensure that land use adjacent to bases does not impede the Armed Forces' ability to fulfill their mission.
- Scenic areas – boosting the state's tourism economy.
- Farmland and forests– protecting and sustaining working family farms and forestland under significant population pressures, ensuring a continued supply of fresh local foods and fiber.
- Game lands, trout streams and estuaries – critical to small businesses in the hunting, commercial and sport fishing, and outdoors industries.
- Parks and trails – enhancing North Carolina's quality of life and ability to attract new families and businesses by protecting water supplies, benefiting local economies, and improving public health.



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North Carolina's Conservation Trust Funds

In the 1980s and 1990s the state established four conservation trust funds to invest in infrastructure that supports economic development in North Carolina and preserves our state's unique natural features. Those investments in every county are:

- Protecting and improving North Carolina's water quality and ability to support population growth and economic expansion;
- Enhancing the state's quality of life, which plays an increasingly important role in attracting high tech companies and their employees;
- Easing communities' transition from traditional industries to more sustainable tourism-based economies, including numerous new small businesses;
- Preserving productive farmland and working forests and rebuilding the local agricultural economy to meet the growing demand for locally grown products; and
- Helping enable an extraordinary expansion of North Carolina's military economy.

The Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF), created in 1996, is a primary source of grants for hundreds of local governments, state agencies and conservation nonprofits to address water pollution, protect clean water supplies and upgrade water treatment capabilities. Funded projects have significantly improved those communities' ability to attract business investment.

- In 2010, the CWMTF received 265 applications, primarily from local governments, for more than \$249 million.
- CWMTF investments have protected more than 450,000 acres of watershed and 4,860 miles of stream buffers.
- Funded infrastructure projects have created an estimated 16,000 jobs, the majority with small businesses.

The Natural Heritage Trust Fund (NHTF), created in 1987, is funded by a portion of the state deed stamp tax and income from personalized license plates. It provides funding for the acquisition and protection of land that is home to rare plant and animal species as well as important wildlife habitats. It also covers the acquisition of sites significant to North Carolina's cultural history. To date, NHTF has protected more than 300,000 acres of ecologically significant land.

The Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF), created in 1994, is funded by a portion of the state deed stamp tax and a small portion of the personalized license plate revenues. It supports improvements in the state's park system, provides dollar-for-dollar matching grants to local governments for parks and improvements to public beach and estuarine access, which are important to local tourism economies. PARTF is the main source of funding for most state park improvements or land acquisition to create new parks or expand existing ones. To date, PARTF has provided more than 600 grants for local parks.

The Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund (ADFPTF), created in 1986, supports public and private enterprise programs that promote sustainable agricultural, horticultural and forestland activities. It also funds conservation easements, which help keep land in production of food, fiber and other agricultural products. To date, ADFPTF has funded \$11.6 million in projects protecting more than 8,000 acres of prime farmland and investing more than \$2.7 million in agricultural economic development projects.