



**CONSERVATION TRUST**  
FOR NORTH CAROLINA

**LAND WITH PURPOSE**



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There's still time to make an impact this year - by funding conservation that meets community needs. Make a secure donation online or return the enclosed envelope.

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# CONSERVATION VOICES



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SPRING 2022

## GREETINGS FRIENDS,

This is a pivotal time for our state and its people. Over the next two years, I am honored to lead CTNC as the organization deepens its commitment to supporting the resilience of highly vulnerable communities. Together, alongside community partners, we will develop conservation solutions to address flooding, soil erosion, drought, and water contamination.

The state's future resilience is dependent on communities finding innovative solutions to protect the health of its citizens. With a willingness to be innovative, creative, and responsive, North Carolinians have the opportunity to build resilience to ongoing changes that will continue to occur around us. CTNC is poised to rise to the challenge having developed expertise in building trusted partnerships, collaborated with leaders and innovators to bring conservation solutions to every individual, and invested in the assets of local communities to achieve a shared goal of building resilience to changes in our climate.

On behalf of the millions whose lives will be enhanced by CTNC's collaborations, its community projects, and service program opportunities, and also on behalf of the board and staff of CTNC--I express my profound gratitude for your enduring support of CTNC and participation in our mission to build resilient communities through conservation and service.

Blessings,

**Brandon A. Robinson**  
President, CTNC



**Investing in conservation solutions builds a more resilient state**

**B**ecause of your support of Conservation Trust for North Carolina, we are making real headway in inspiring people to tackle climate change and build community resilience. Over the coming years, we will work with the people of our beautiful state to find innovative conservation solutions to our greatest environmental challenges. *We hope you'll continue to be part of our network. Visit [ctnc.org/donate](https://ctnc.org/donate) to invest in our vision for a more resilient future.*

**Together, we can build a stronger North Carolina in the face of change.**

## Strategic partnerships turn the tide on flood-prone communities

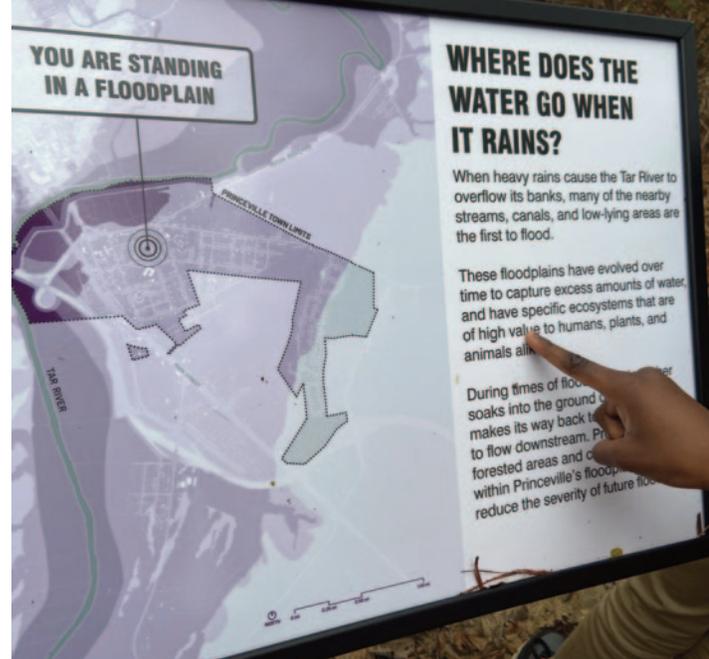
This year, CTNC and our partners will continue to lay the groundwork toward establishing an effective model of community-driven climate change adaptation. The next phase of our work in Princeville will focus on transforming underutilized town-owned lots and property that Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has determined to be at risk of future flooding into absorbing flood impact while making them usable spaces for the community as pollinator gardens and community garden space.

CTNC's "Seeding Resilience Phase II" is one of 15 Environmental Justice and Climate Resilience grants across three countries awarded through the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency partners with Canada and Mexico in the program.

With the increasing threat of climate change, more communities like Princeville will face repeated flood events. Together, we can turn the tide for flood-prone communities, and you are the first line of defense.

[Learn more at ctnc.org/cec-princeville.](https://ctnc.org/cec-princeville)

Photo: Claire Henkel



*"Communities across North Carolina will benefit from the lessons learned as a result of the partnerships and outcomes in Princeville," said Andrew Fox, FASLA, PLA of NC State Coastal Dynamics Design Lab. "It's exciting to see people benefit from the principles that we've studied and developed."*



## Hikers, Anglers benefit from CTNC's latest conservation project

Conservation Trust for North Carolina recently closed on the Cranberry Creek Expansion Project. The 20-acre parcel will be combined with CTNC's adjoining Cranberry Creek Preserve, resulting in a 200-acre addition to the Blue Ridge Parkway with a three-quarter-mile section of new Mountains-to-Sea Trail.

Now conserved, partners will work to protect native Brook Trout populations by removing a dam located on the property. Once the dam removal is complete, a new set of partners will be brought in to redirect a portion of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail across the two properties to increase hiker safety. Restoring fish passage to the tributary to Cranberry Creek will help enhance our state's native fish habitat, which is critical to maintaining a healthy ecosystem for all.

*"The best conservation results come from partnerships between landowners, agencies, nonprofits, and stakeholders. This is a great example of that effort coming to fruition."*  
North Carolina Trout Unlimited Council Chair Mike Mihalas

Every dam removed from our state's streams benefits aquatic species and reduces the risk of catastrophic flooding of downstream properties. These actions help the region adjust to our changing climate and restore natural habitats.

[Visit ctnc.org/cranberry-creek](https://ctnc.org/cranberry-creek) to learn more about our latest success.

Photo: Rusty Painter.



## Resilience Corps NC members inspire young people to become climate stewards

**M** meet the inspiring youth of Resilience Corps NC. Mawadda Almasri joined CTNC's AmeriCorps program as a member of the NC Zoo. Mawadda develops educational programs for under-resourced communities to educate them on climate change in simple and engaging ways. Leading through service, Mawadda started a garden at the zoo, which will be used for educational workshops to emphasize the importance of growing our own food; and designed an educational program for guests to learn about composting in the zoo's nature play area, Kidzone.

*"I always remind myself of how my service work is providing climate change education to children. That lesson might inspire those children to work in the environmental field." – Mawadda Almasri, Resilience Corps NC member, 2021-2022*

Mawadda hopes to continue educating people about the environment, food waste and food insecurity, sustainable community gardens, and the impacts of our changing climate.

**See Mawadda and other service members in action at [ctnc.org/mawadda](https://ctnc.org/mawadda).**

Pictured: Mawadda Almasri



## CTNC advocates for conservation policies that provide community benefits

In 2021, North Carolina legislators voted to spend nearly \$200 million to support efforts that will allow our state become more resilient to climate change. Conservation provides solutions to challenges facing our communities. It provides places to hold excess water after storms, it protects trees that absorb carbon from the atmosphere, and it offers places for people to recreate for their mental and physical health.

By participating in coalitions including Land for Tomorrow, the Great Trails State Coalition, and the NC Heirs Property Coalition, CTNC advocates for smart conservation policies and adequate funding on behalf of our members, community partners, and collaborative projects. Only with smart conservation policies will we successfully build resilient communities that are prepared to weather any storm.

**Read how CTNC plans to engage North Carolina lawmakers throughout the upcoming legislative session at [ctnc.org/policy-22](https://ctnc.org/policy-22).**