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# CONSERVATION VOICES



**CONSERVATION  
TRUST** FOR NORTH  
CAROLINA  
**LAND WITH PURPOSE**

WINTER 2022



## DEAR CTNC FRIENDS,

As winter of 2022-23 begins, I want to thank all of you for a remarkable year in the conservation space. Thanks in no small part to your financial contributions, attendance at our annual Conservation Celebration reception in Blowing Rock in August, and thoughtful engagement through social media and other mediums, CTNC's conservation work has continued, undaunted, during the Covid-19 pandemic. As the public health crisis of the past three years begins to fade, we at CTNC are optimistic about what 2023 brings for our long-term projects in land protection, policy advocacy in Raleigh and Washington, D.C., and climate resilience work in Eastern North Carolina.

All of us on the CTNC Board of Directors and staff appreciate your continuous financial support of these and other worthy projects that touch real lives in North Carolina. Contained herein is information on how to amplify your giving during the year-end season of philanthropy. I and my colleagues, including our exemplary Executive Director, Chris Canfield, will continue to employ our best efforts to maximize the effect of the resources that you entrust to us.

During these winter months, I wish you joy, warmth, intellectual discovery and the peace of mind that comes from a life of purpose. Aristotle once opined that excellence is a "virtuous activity of the soul," along lines of excellence, and it is always this standard to which CTNC aspires as a conservation leader.

Grateful for your support and friendship,

**Brandon A. Robinson**  
President, CTNC



## Invest in conservation and resilience by December 31

**Y**our investment in community resilience has made an incredible impact in 2022. Because of investments in CTNC's vision for community-led resilience, we have protected more than 300 acres of land, collaborated with the Town of Princeville to install conservation solutions to address flooding, and achieved a litany of other important accomplishments. It is not too late to make an impact! You can make a gift to CTNC in any of the following ways:

- Gift of cash, check, or credit card;
- Direct a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) to CTNC;
- Make a potentially tax-advantaged gift of stock (CTNC's EIN is 58-1552188);
- Direct a gift to CTNC from your Donor Advised Fund (DAF);
- Check with your employer about matching gifts you will make or have already made to CTNC;
- Make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA before December 31, 2022.

**If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Amy Smith, Philanthropy Director at (919) 931-4237 or by email at [asmith@ctnc.org](mailto:asmith@ctnc.org). We're available to assist with your end-of-year giving needs.**

Images represent your investments in the Resilience Corps NC program, Waterrock Knob land conservation, and the Princeville Collaborative.

## Land transfer will promote climate resilience and reduced flood impacts

**C**TNC recently transferred 53 acres along Little Glade Creek to become a permanent addition to the Blue Ridge parkway. This property ensures a beautiful view, and equally importantly, it works to mitigate climate change by sequestering carbon and protecting downstream lands from flooding exacerbated by development and logging. Along Little Glade Creek near Parkway milepost 228, approximately 2 miles north of Little Glade Mill Pond, the conserved property enables forests on site to sequester carbon from the atmosphere. Prevention of development and impervious surfaces on the property will reduce the potential for flooding of Little Glade Creek.



*“North Carolina is one of the most rapidly developing states in the country and we need to protect all the open space we can,” said Rusty Painter, CTNC’s Land Protection Director. “Protecting land today ensures future generations can enjoy nature in our state.”*

Thanks to private donors and Conservation Trust for North Carolina (CTNC) supporters CTNC purchased two adjoining properties to protect a 53-acre tract. It furthers CTNC’s efforts to widen the narrow corridor of protected land between Bullhead Mountain and Stone Mountain State Parks to the south and Saddle Mountain/Mitchell River Game Lands to the north. Its addition to the Parkway further enhances the Parkway’s ability to serve as a south-to-north migration corridor for species seeking a cooler climate in more northern latitudes.

**Learn more about the benefits of this conservation project at [ctnc.org/glade-creek](https://ctnc.org/glade-creek).**

## Celebrating Public Land Stewards and Partnership

**N**ational Public Lands Day presents land trusts and conservation leaders an opportunity to reflect on the hard work of land stewards. For this year’s day of recognition, Conservation Trust for North Carolina (CTNC)

joined National Park Service leaders along with representatives from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and numerous partners in land conservation to celebrate the work to protect the Blue Ridge Parkway and Waterrock Knob. Waterrock Knob is located at milepost 451.2 on the

Blue Ridge Parkway and features views of a vast landscape of rare Southern Appalachian spruce-fir forests visible from the visitor center and 6,273-foot summit. It is one of the highest visitor centers along the Blue Ridge Parkway and one of the most critically biodiverse landscapes in the Eastern United States, which is also home to rich Cherokee history. In 2016 land trust partners announced a large-scale promise to add over 5,300 acres at Waterrock Knob to the National Park Service. To date, conservation partners acquired and donated nearly 3,400 acres to the National Park Service. The addition of all the new land now enables NPS to prepare a new strategic vision for the greatly expanded Waterrock Knob area. These lands are part of a larger set of 16 separate tracts being donated to NPS by the nonprofit groups thanks to long-term support from major private and public funding sources, including Fred and Alice Stanback and the North Carolina Land and Water Fund.



**Learn more at [ctnc.org/public-lands](https://ctnc.org/public-lands).**

Blue Parkway Superintendent Tracy Swartout addresses conservation partners at the Waterrock Knob Visitor Center.



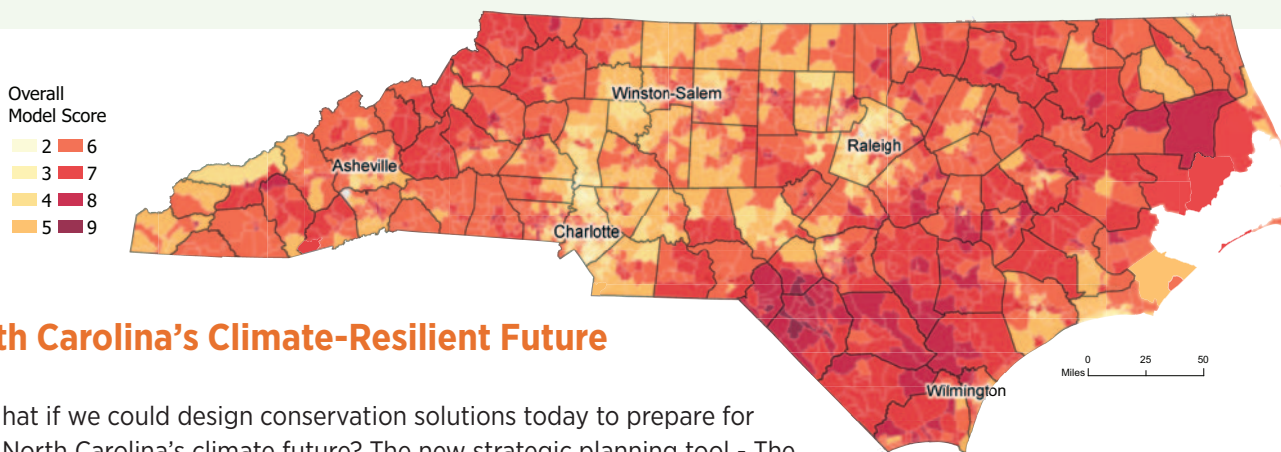


## Preventing Land Loss for Increased Conservation and Resilience

In North Carolina, an estimated \$1.86 billion of land privately owned in North Carolina is held as heirs' property. Heirs' property occurs when land is passed down through generations and owned by many descendants with an undivided interest in the land. Currently, in our state, anyone who inherits or purchases even a small interest of heirs' property can potentially force other owners to sell against their will, often for well below fair market value. Owners of family-owned properties are vulnerable to involuntary land loss resulting from forced partition action proceedings.

Right now, the North Carolina General Assembly is considering adoption of the Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act legislation in an effort to safeguard families from forced sales and provide them with greater access to building generational wealth through land equity. CTNC views the adoption of the Uniform Act as an integral part of our mission to build resilient and just communities through conservation solutions.

**Learn more about the proposed legislation and how you can get involved at [ctnc.org/heirs-legislation](https://ctnc.org/heirs-legislation).**



## Mapping North Carolina's Climate-Resilient Future

What if we could design conservation solutions today to prepare for North Carolina's climate future? The new strategic planning tool - The CTNC Community Resilience Model - scores all 100 North Carolina counties on the potential to recover from a climate event. Scores compare five criteria - social vulnerability, flooding risk, heirs property probability, anticipated climate vulnerability, and distance to CTNC conserved properties.

By identifying these places, CTNC can be more strategic in delivering conservation that builds community resilience through a lens of equity and inclusion. The map is a tool for CTNC program leaders to visualize communities in North Carolina where climate change impacts are projected to have the most significant impact on people and places that are least resourced to respond and recover.

In collaboration with CTNC Director of Community Innovation Mary Alice Holley, Duke Nicholas School Stanback Fellow for Summer 2022, Chloe Ochocki, worked to develop the GIS map. Thanks to Fred and Alice Stanback, who fund the Stanback Fellowship Program through Duke University, and their generosity, this project was completed at no cost to the organization.

Through your support, CTNC will be able to bring the capacity to execute projects to more communities in the coming years.

**View the interactive map on our website at [ctnc.org/resilient-map](https://ctnc.org/resilient-map).**