



**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 by scanning the code, visiting us online or returning the enclosed envelope.

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**CONSERVATION VOICES**



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MARCH 2024



## DEAR CTNC FAMILY,

Thank you to each of our supporters for making it possible for CTNC to advance land protection, advocate for strong conservation policy decisions, and work directly in and with communities across our state to build resilience. We've started 2024 off with great momentum because of you.

As I begin my time as President of CTNC, I want to thank Brandon Robinson for his effective and attentive leadership and the strong relationships he built with so many of you. I'm honored to take the mantle from him and look forward to his continued guidance this year.

As many of you know, Cynthia Satterfield transitioned into the role of Executive Director in December, following Chris Canfield's retirement. We recently met for lunch to start planning for the year. We are both excited about our new roles with CTNC and are honored to be joining together to build resilience across our state. She will be on the road a lot this year with the intent to meet as many of you as possible and hear about what inspires your commitment to conservation. Please reach out to Cynthia whenever you can to welcome her to our community.

I hope you will continue to support CTNC in building resilience across our state.



**Bill Leslie** | President, CTNC



Seeing Crane-fly Orchids unfurl their delicate blooms always makes me smile. So you can imagine how happy I was to see blankets of them emerging from beneath the leaves on my hike a few weeks ago. Another thing that makes me smile? The stories you've been sharing with me about why you support the Conservation Trust for North Carolina; the love you have for the innovative work we are doing to build resilience through conservation and land-based community-led initiatives.

I look forward to meeting many more of you in the months and years to come. But you don't have to wait on me to come calling; my door is always open. I'm excited to be here and work with you to ensure a resilient and everlasting CTNC.



**Cynthia Satterfield** | CTNC Executive Director




## CTNC raised more than \$200,000 during our End of Year Campaign!

Thanks to the generosity and commitment of so many of you, these gifts are already at work building resilience by:

- **Accelerating the pace of land conservation.** Our new Western Conservation Manager, Aaron Flannery, is working closely with Rusty to conserve more land in partnership with landowners and create opportunities for the public to access the cherished natural spaces in the NC mountains.
- **Deploying 23 Resilience Corps NC members** across the state, these members are working on projects that help communities better manage flood and fire events, and implementing green infrastructure and agriculture projects. One great example is the six-county flood resiliency plan developed to help farmers prepare for flood events, stay in production, and better withstand weather-related interruptions during the growing season.
- **Building strategic partnership with state agencies, lawmakers, and local elected officials** from the Parkway to Bald Head Island to identify communities vulnerable to flooding and recommend actions to address flooding in ways that are led by community leaders. The Neuse, Tar-Pam, and French Broad will be among the first basins that will benefit from land use strategies, technical expertise, and resources to implement science-driven, nature-based solutions in response to heightened flood risk.

Your donations are the reason these gains are possible. Thank you for laying a strong foundation for us in 2024.



### State's investment in flood resiliency blueprint is paving the way for greater resilience

In a state that often experiences the unpredictable forces of nature, North Carolina stands at the forefront of climate resilience with the Flood Resiliency Blueprint – an effort launched by the NC General Assembly and the NC Department of Environmental Quality. **Representing the largest statewide flood mitigation investment in its history, this initiative is designed with the goal to revolutionize how communities are resourced to respond and recover to climate change-caused disasters.**

CTNC commends North Carolina's General Assembly and the Department of Environmental Quality for their leadership on flood resiliency. The Blueprint aims to reduce North Carolina's annual losses to lives, property and livelihood because of extreme storms and flooding events, and their overall vulnerability. The strategic investments to flood resilience planning in specific areas of the state will benefit multiple departments, including water quality, the local economy, the public health system and outdoor recreation.

CTNC has been an active partner with state policymakers and other organizations inspired by our own learning with partners from the Parkway to Princeville. CTNC's key goal is to ensure communities have access and can benefit from Blueprint resources when considering conservation solutions to address flooding.

**Learn more about our role and the opportunity awaiting NC communities: <https://ctnc.org/nc-flood-resiliency-blueprint/>**

## The Resilience Service Network Expands to Achieve Resilience

**T**hrough the Resilience Service Network, CTNC has placed dozens of AmeriCorps members in communities throughout North Carolina to advance our shared goals to achieve community resilience. **Resilience Corps NC is creating an initiative to provide capacity of our local partners seeking to advance conservation and climate change solutions.** Each member has been strategically placed statewide where their service will meet the needs of climate-impacted, socially vulnerable communities. The host sites partners include non-profits or government agencies with focuses on flood resilience, sustainable agriculture, environmental education, urban heat planning, stormwater management, or land conservation.

Through collaboration with local communities, members are actively engaged in projects that will expand and enhance North Carolina's overall capacity to withstand the challenges posed by climate change.

**Learn more about where members are serving to advance community resilience throughout the state:**  
[ctnc.org/resilience-nc-cohort](https://ctnc.org/resilience-nc-cohort)



## Mountain Revolving Loan Fund Provides Grants for Conservation Projects

**T**hrough the Mountain Revolving Loan Fund (MRLF), CTNC works with land trusts to conserve acreage in Western North Carolina. In addition to providing critical bridge loans to eligible land trusts, CTNC's MRLF provides small grants to fill funding gaps that enable completion of projects that preserve the ecosystems and cultural sites along the Blue Ridge Mountains.

This year, CTNC awarded grants to four land trusts totaling over \$90,500. The land trusts accommodated during the current cycle include Blue Ridge Land Conservancy, Conserving Carolina, Highlands-Cashier Land Trust, and Mainspring Conservation Trust. **We're proud to support the costs associated with ensuring that 516 acres of land will be protected in perpetuity.**

The eight properties that will be protected by our partner land trusts offer ecological, agricultural, recreational, and cultural-historic benefits to communities of Western NC.

**Read more about the Mountain Revolving Loan Fund and land trusts involved by visiting**  
[ctnc.org/mountain-land-trust-partner](https://ctnc.org/mountain-land-trust-partner).