



north carolina chapter

Formed in 1951, The Nature Conservancy is pledged to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. Through a results-oriented, science-based approach, the Conservancy has protected more than 117 million acres around the world and owns and manages more than 1,400 preserves: the largest private system of nature sanctuaries in the world.

Since 1977, The Nature Conservancy's North Carolina Chapter has sought to preserve the state's natural diversity by protecting its natural communities and the plants and animals that inhabit them. The North Carolina Chapter receives financial support from membership dues, foundations, grants and charitable contributions from individuals and corporations. The Chapter currently has more than 23,500 members and is directed by a board of trustees composed of business, scientific, educational and civic leaders from across the state.

The North Carolina Chapter works in conjunction with the Natural Heritage Program, within the State Division of Parks and Recreation, to identify and inventory unique natural areas and to establish protection priorities based on information gathered by the Heritage Program.

The Conservancy protects lands through acquisition by gift or purchase, and also by using conservation easements, leases and voluntary management agreements with landowners. Many natural areas are acquired and transferred to government agencies such as the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and Division of Parks and Recreation, the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Nature Conservancy has helped protect more than 580,000 acres of wild land in North Carolina, and owns and manages 64 preserves encompassing nearly 105,000 acres.