

# The Catawba Lands Conservancy

Protecting Our Environment for the Future

Catawba Lands Conservancy is a nonprofit land trust that permanently protects land, water and wildlife habitat to enhance the quality of life in Mecklenburg, Catawba, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, and Union Counties.

“We preserve land for future generations, protecting drinking water and local foods, providing wildlife habitat and strengthening our communities with places for reflection and relaxation,” says Rhea Kelley, Outreach and Education Director.

“We are on the front lines with local communities, protecting our region’s natural heritage,”

Rhea Kelley,  
Catawba Lands  
Conservancy

In the last 20 years, Charlotte lost 26% of its total cropland and forestland for a staggering total of 300,000 acres. As the landscape continues to change due to rapid urbanization, the natural places that define this region’s character are steadily being converted for various human uses. Catawba Lands Conservancy is dedicated to balancing this inevitable growth with open space with scenic vistas, recreational trails, water access and working farms.

Catawba Lands Conservancy is the lead agency for the Carolina Thread Trail, a 15-county initiative to create a network of trails, blueways, and conservation corridors that will grow together over time linking more than 2.3 million citizens. Local communities self-determine their portions of this green interstate system with catalytic funding from The Thread.

The Conservancy works with a dedicated group of more than 300 volunteers who share their time and talents to in a variety of ways. “We are on the front lines with local communities, protecting our region’s natural heritage,” says Kelley.

Get your work gloves and go to [www.catawbalands.org](http://www.catawbalands.org).



Carol Buie-Jackson

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