

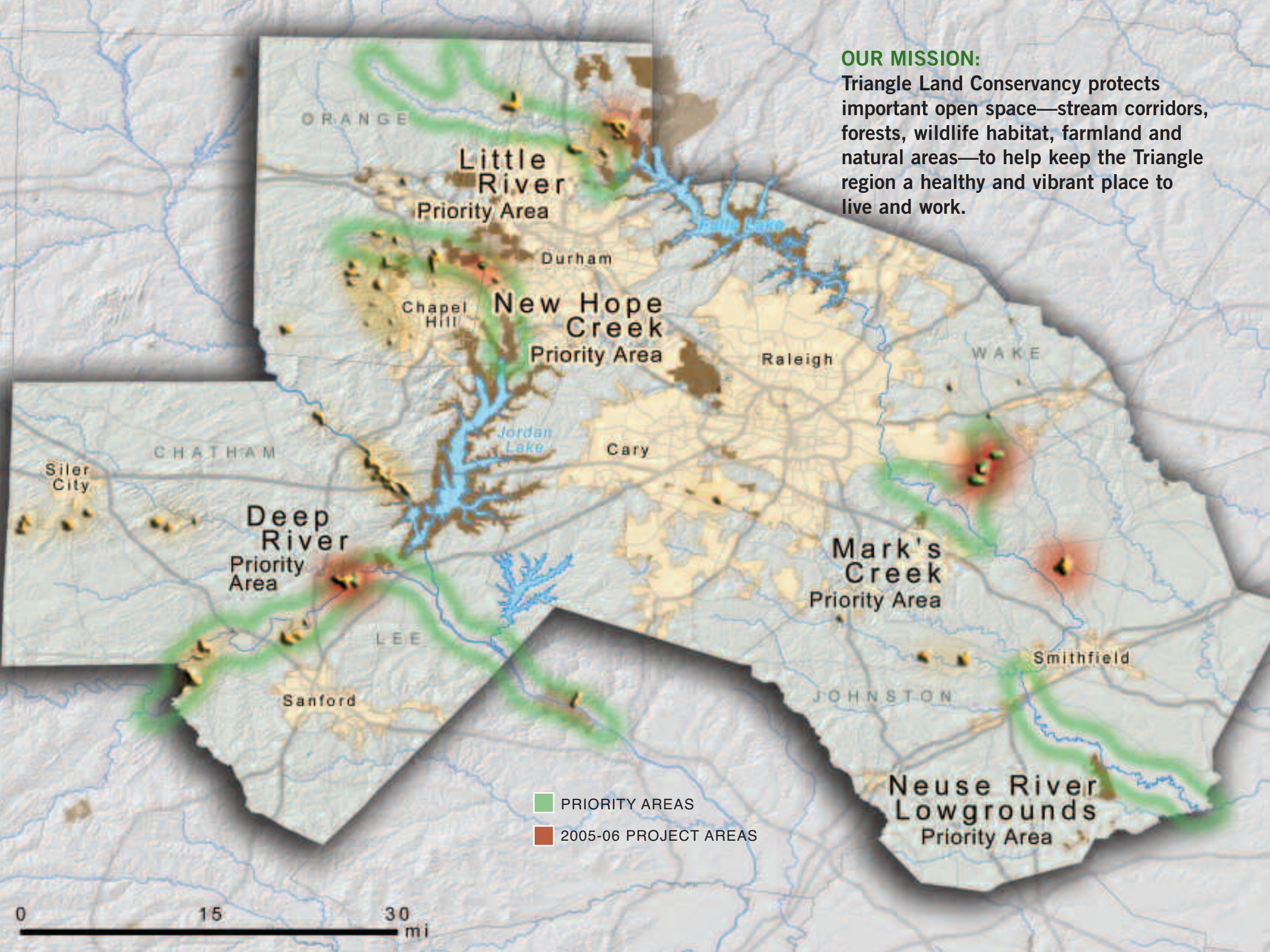


*Saving the Places You Love*  
ANNUAL REPORT 2005-06



### OUR MISSION:

Triangle Land Conservancy protects important open space—stream corridors, forests, wildlife habitat, farmland and natural areas—to help keep the Triangle region a healthy and vibrant place to live and work.





# From the President



*Dear Fellow TLC Members,*

Our community has changed dramatically in the past 15 years. As a native North Carolinian, I have watched this change bring wonderful things to our region. However, I have also witnessed with dismay the loss of many of our forests and farmlands.

Our rapid growth is projected to continue over the next two decades. Right now, we have a unique opportunity to help shape how our community grows. We must balance our growth with the protection of our water and land if we are going to safeguard what makes the Triangle such a great place to live, work and raise our families.

TLC is working to achieve that balance. Our focused, innovative work in priority areas has conserved over 8,000 acres. We are now handling more complex projects, at a larger scale, than ever before.

I believe in TLC's efforts to strike a conservation balance. TLC's cooperative, collaborative approach to conservation and its ability to deliver lasting results are among the reasons I serve as a TLC volunteer.

Being involved with TLC affords me an opportunity to make a tangible difference in shaping our community's future. By supporting TLC, you too are making a difference in shaping our future.

I thank you for your support, and I encourage you to help keep TLC poised to create and take advantage of the extraordinary opportunities that arise in the coming year.

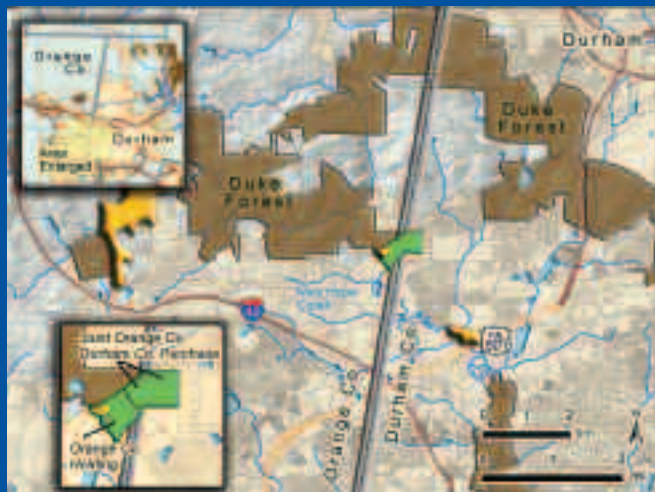
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CBNR'.

*Charles B. Neely, Jr.  
Chairman*

*P.S. Our rapid growth means we must act now to save open land for our grandchildren and their grandchildren. Increasing your generous support will enable us to seize opportunities that we will never have again.*



# Conservation Priorities



## NEW HOPE CREEK

### KEY

- 2005-06 conservation project
- TLC conservation land
- Land conserved by other organization

## NEW HOPE CREEK

**Conservation focus:** Working in partnership with city and county governments to protect the last few pieces of land that will fulfill the vision of the New Hope master plan for a natural trail and wildlife corridor stretching from Duke Forest to Jordan Lake.

### Promises Kept at Hollow Rock

The complex strategy to protect New Hope Creek lands continued to play out as planned, thanks to the promises kept by the Erwin Area Neighborhood Group (EANG), Durham County, Orange County, Chapel Hill, Durham, TLC and

the Penny family. In June 2006, the Pennys sold 22.37 acres of their land in Orange County at a bargain price to TLC, which in turn sold a conservation easement on 20.14 of those acres to the NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program, covering 300-foot buffers on New Hope Creek and a direct New Hope tributary. Finally, TLC sold all 22.37 acres to Orange County.

The protection of the so-called New Hope Creek Preserve at Hollow Rock is a giant step toward completing the New Hope master plan, which will one day allow people to enjoy a scenic 15-mile hike along the creek from Hollow Rock to Jordan Lake. As it has in the past, TLC will be there, helping every step of the way.



*Wade & Carolyn Penny kept their promise, selling 22 acres on New Hope Creek for a bargain price.*

## DEEP RIVER

**Conservation focus:** Protecting unique natural areas for wildlife habitat and educational purposes, maintaining clean water for local communities, and working toward the goal of creating a new state park.

### Lee County White Pines and Justice Lands

Patience is definitely a virtue in protecting land. After three years of TLC's work with the landowners, in May 2006, the state closed on a 122-acre land purchase on the Deep River in Lee County, with support from the NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program and the NC Natural Heritage Trust Fund. The protected land—referred to by TLC as the “Lee County White Pines”—is across the Deep River from TLC's nationally significant White Pines Preserve and includes several stands of white pine.

Moving another step closer to a new state park on the Deep River, in December 2005, TLC transferred ownership of the 760-acre Justice Lands to the state, as obligated by the use of Natural Heritage Trust Fund money in the purchase. TLC continues to steward the Justice Lands, and has also taken on stewardship of the Lee County White Pines.



## DEEP RIVER

## Land Conservation 2005-06

Site	Acres	Type	Category
Hollow Rock Trailhead	22	Partnership	New Hope Creek
Lee County White Pines	122	Partnership	Deep River
Mark's Creek Wetlands	25	Partnership	Mark's Creek
Lake Myra Uplands	118	Partnership	Mark's Creek
Mark's Creek Wetlands	196	Partnership	Mark's Creek
Mark's Creek Wetlands	122	Partnership	Mark's Creek
Horton Grove Preserve	76	TLC-owned	Little River
Snow Hill Preserve	48	TLC easement	Little River
Holding Farm	60	TLC easement	Family Lands

2005-06 acres conserved 789

**Total acres conserved 8,316**



*Development and conservation  
can co-exist.*

## MARK'S CREEK

**Conservation focus:** Protection of the core of a 7,500-acre landscape of pastures, croplands, forests and wetlands, with a dual emphasis on creation of a regional park along the Mountains-to-Sea Trail connected by greenways to neighboring towns and preservation of the area's three centuries of rural tradition.

### Mark's Creek Wetlands and Lake Myra Uplands

Six years of conservation planning, partnership building and landowner relationship cultivation in the Mark's Creek area had led to just 32 acres protected by March 2006. Then came the breakthrough: four conservation deals within two months that protected a total of 451 acres and provided great momentum for the conservation vision of the area.

That vision is the Mark's Creek Rural Lands Initiative, established by TLC, Wake County Parks, Recreation & Open Space, and The Trust for Public Land. Three of the deals this spring came in the Mark's Creek Wetlands area, cumulatively protecting 332 acres including more than two miles of stream and 20 acres of wetlands. The fourth property of 119 acres lies in the Lake Myra area of the Initiative's coverage, and protects about 1.1 miles of stream frontage on two Mark's Creek tributaries. Money for the purchases was provided by the Wake County Open Space Bond Fund and the North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund.

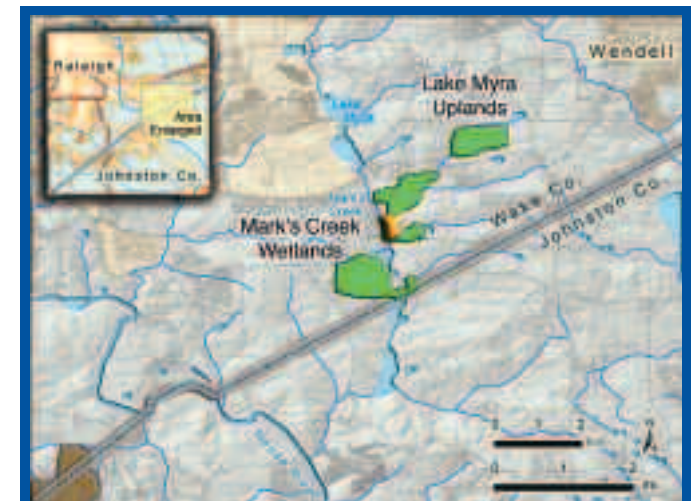
## LITTLE RIVER

**Conservation focus:** Protecting the water quality of the Little River and Little River Reservoir, as well as preserving the family farms, scenic beauty, and wildlife habitat of the river corridor. Our work in the Little River corridor ties directly into a major initiative to protect drinking water sources in the Upper Neuse River Basin.

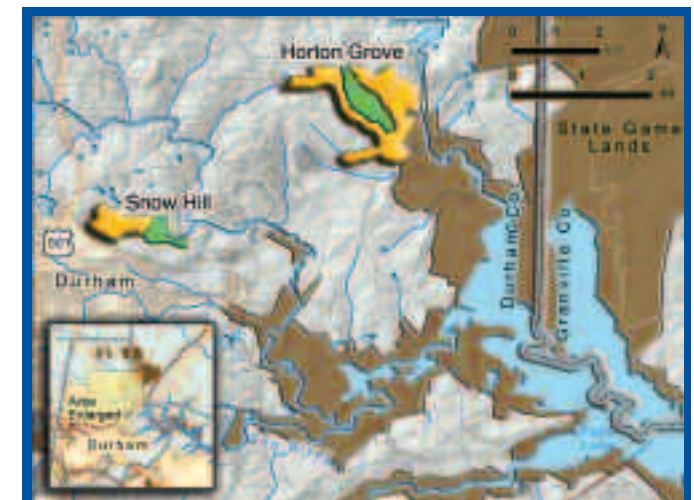
### Horton Grove & Snow Hill

Developer D.R. Bryan is living proof that development and conservation can co-exist. Completing the third phase of his commitment to the Horton Grove Preserve, in March 2006, Bryan Properties, Inc. donated 76 acres of some of the area's most scenic land to TLC—adding to the 594 acres the company donated for the preserve in 2004 and 2005. The preserve protects more than five miles of streams that feed into Falls Lake, keeping drinking water clean for hundreds of thousands in the Triangle.

Less than two miles away, on Snow Hill Road, Wanderlust, LLC donated a conservation easement on a 48-acre tract that contains both farm and forest lands. The easement will protect the water quality of two streams that flow through the property and eventually into the Little River, another tributary of Falls Lake.



MARK'S CREEK



LITTLE RIVER

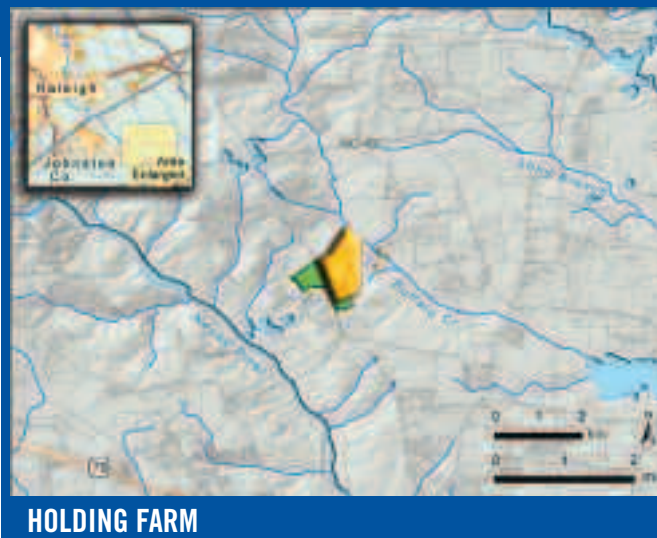


# Family Lands

## HOLDING FARM

The Holding family of Johnston County continued its generous support of TLC's mission, donating conservation easements on 49- and 11-acre tracts in December 2005, and bringing the total acreage protected at Holding Farm to nearly 300 acres in a rapidly developing area near Clayton.

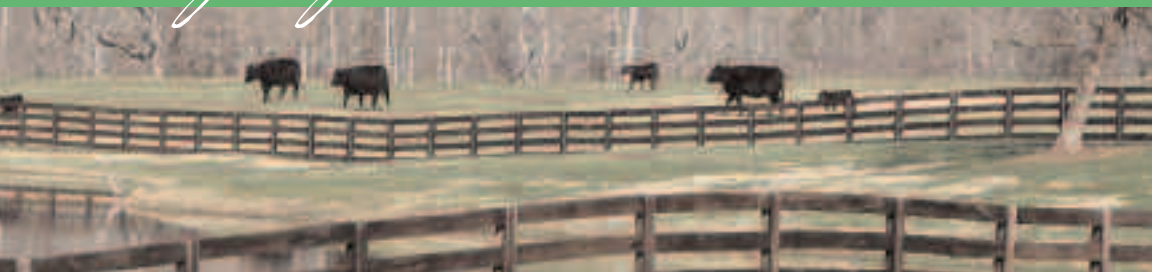
TLC will maintain the agriculture and forestry conservation easements established for the tracts. The Holding Farm property protects farm and forest lands in Johnston County as well as the water quality of Buffalo Creek before it enters the Neuse River.



HOLDING FARM



# Ongoing Initiatives



## WORKING LANDS INITIATIVE

TLC's efforts as part of this initiative to increase farmland and forestland protection in Chatham County have helped prompt the Chatham County Board of Commissioners to call for the establishment of a Working Lands Committee to study potential programs for conservation of working lands. One of the topics the Committee will study closely is Transfer of Development Rights programs, which use market forces to balance smart growth with conservation of high-value natural, agricultural, and open space areas.

## UPPER NEUSE CLEAN WATER INITIATIVE

The UNCWI coalition of conservation organizations, landowners, government agencies and watershed protection groups is targeting the highest priority lands needed to protect water quality in nine drinking water reservoirs, including Falls Lake. TLC has played a significant role in early technical studies and outreach planning, and will focus conservation efforts on the Little River Priority Area. TLC's accomplishments this year at Horton Grove and Snow Hill directly support the Initiative.

## DOROTHEA DIX CAMPUS CONSERVATION

With Raleigh's Dorothea Dix Hospital moving to Butner in 2008, the hospital campus' 306 acres have become a much sought-after property, and in the minds of some, should be dedicated to what would be Raleigh's version of Central Park. In April, TLC and other groups presented to the NC General Assembly's Dorothea Dix Hospital Property Study Commission recommendations calling for protection of the campus' existing open space (about 220 acres) and rehabilitation of the historic buildings, particularly the Main Building (designed by A.J. Davis, who also designed the North Carolina State Capitol).



*TLC is partnering with community groups to advocate for conservation of the Dix campus open space, seen between NCSU's Centennial Campus (foreground) and downtown Raleigh in this aerial photo.*

# Stewardship

*For TLC and all land trusts, acquiring a property or the management rights of a property is just the first step in protecting the conservation values of that land. Beyond is the long-term responsibility of preserving the ecological integrity of the land, which we accomplish through our monitoring programs. Sometimes we even work to enhance the ecological integrity of the land. Our stewardship program also provides valuable connections to our communities.*

## RESTORATION

### La Grange Restoration

With about 2.5 miles of Deep River frontage, TLC's La Grange Riparian Reserve provides an excellent water quality protection buffer. Part of a former cotton, corn, and tobacco plantation, some of the 308-acre property's fields had become overgrown with brush, slowing the process of the land returning to forest.

To give Mother Nature a hand, TLC cleared the fields and then worked with a forestry contractor to plant approximately 20,000 mixed hardwood saplings on 33 acres of the property—in just eight hours. This tree planting, funded by a grant from the US Fish & Wildlife Service, is the first implementation of a long-standing reforestation plan.



Workers spread out to plant 20,000 trees at La Grange

The La Grange ecosystems and TLC will both benefit from the mixed hardwood forest that will grow and flourish in years to come. The forest will provide excellent wildlife habitat and return the landscape to its original state. And TLC will save money formerly spent to mow the fescue fields.

## ACCESS

### White Pines Trails

TLC's crown jewel property in Chatham County, the White Pines Nature Preserve, continues to attract a lot of well-deserved stewardship attention. In the summer of 2005, TLC began a 6-month, \$10,000 trail improvement project to address problems with two logging roads that make up two of the preserve's main trails.

Guided by a *pro bono* storm water management plan provided by The John R. McAdams Company, backhoes, bulldozers and dump trucks re-graded the White Pines Trail and stabilized the path with many loads of gravel and rock. The re-grading work including



Dump trucks hauled in many loads of gravel and rock to repair and stabilize the White Pines Trail.

digging a few small vernal pools alongside the trail to maintain important breeding sites for local amphibians like frogs, toads, and salamanders.

The finishing touches included spreading mulch, seeding the trail edges, building foot-bridges, and installing erosion check dams.



## VOLUNTEERS

An outgrowth of TLC's stewardship activities is a strong volunteer program. Many people in our communities are looking for ways to connect to the natural environment through volunteerism, and TLC's Stewardship program offers a great way to do that. In the past year, scores of volunteers took part in TLC stewardship projects, donating hundreds of hours of their time. Many of those are volunteering as individuals. Many others are volunteering with a group. Children and teens from area schools get hands-on environmental education when they volunteer with TLC. Area businesses consider providing financial support to TLC when their employees engage in team-building workdays.

*TLC strengthened its relationship with national outdoor gear retailer REI through a March 26 workday at the Justice Lands.*

*People are looking for ways to connect to the environment through volunteerism.*



# Financial Report

July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006

## Revenue

Total \$5,323,618

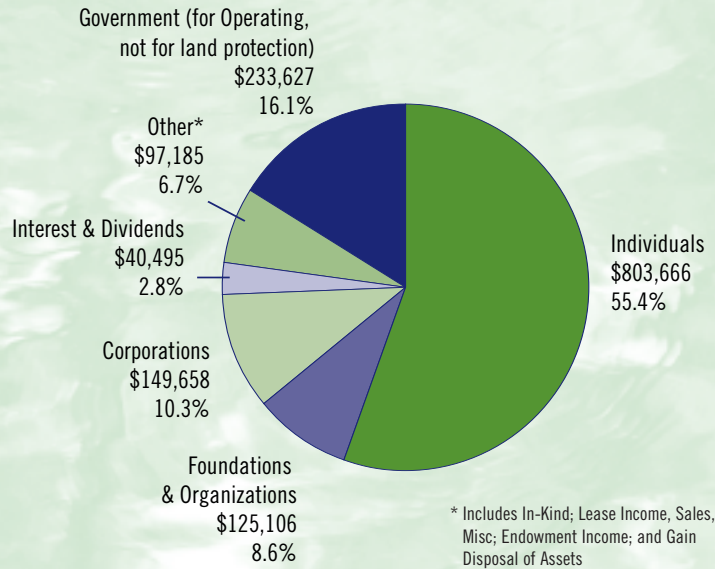


Chart Subtotal

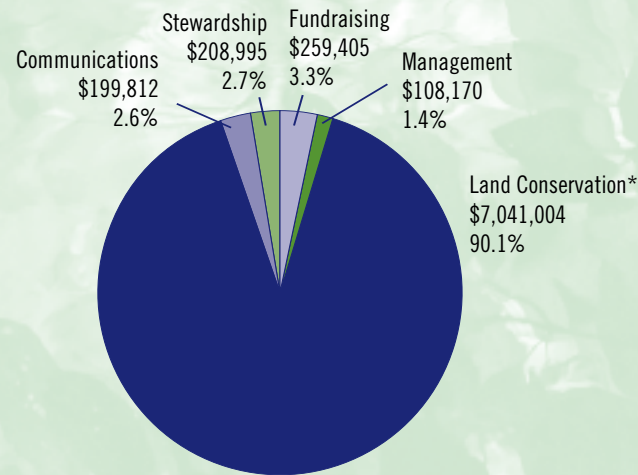
\$1,449,737

## Additional Revenue

- Value of protected land \$2,388,298
- Government funds leveraged for land protection \$1,485,583

## Expenses

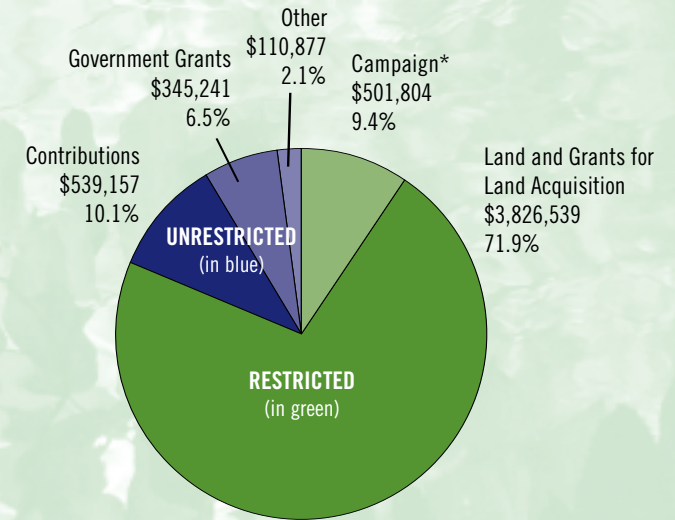
Total \$7,817,386



\* Includes \$6,343,081 booked value of transferring Justice Lands to state ownership in December 2005

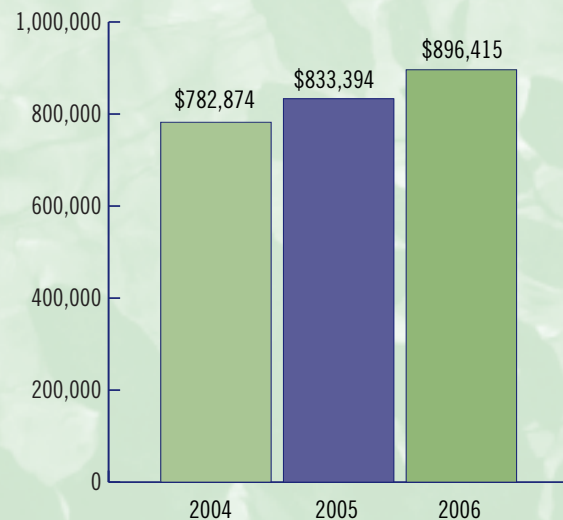
## Revenues by Restriction

Total \$5,323,618



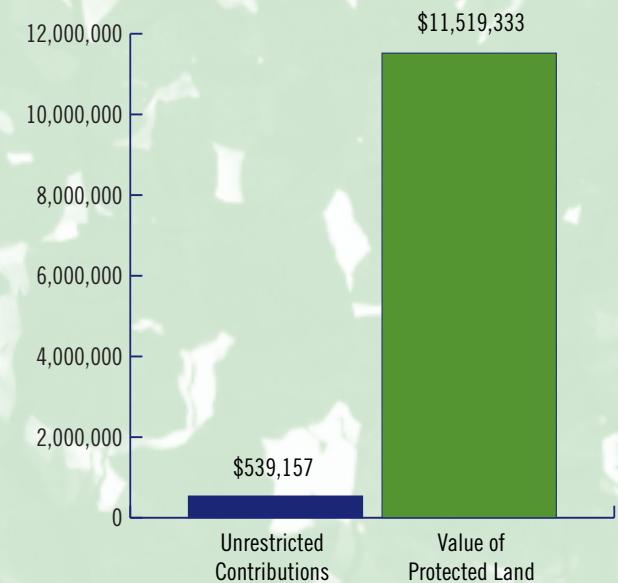
\* Includes 12% unrestricted contributions

## Endowment & Board Designated Funds



To see a copy of TLC's audit for 2005-06, contact business manager Jessica Poland at (919) 833-3662 ext. 104.

## Leveraging Your Donations – Value of Protected Land vs. Member Donations





## Board of Directors (as of June 30, 2006)

Charles B. Neely, Jr., President  
*Wake County*

Steven Levitas  
*Wake County*

Ron Strom, Vice President  
*Orange County*

John R. McAdams, Past President  
*Orange County*

Anne Stoddard, Secretary  
*Orange County*

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Robert Naylor, Treasurer  
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Sonya McKay  
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Adam Abram  
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Wade Barber  
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Dale Threatt-Taylor  
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Celeste Burns  
*Durham County*

Laura Horton Virkler  
*Orange County*

Ayden Lee, Jr.  
*Johnston County*

## Staff (as of June 30, 2006)

Kevin Brice  
*Executive Director*

Emily Ander  
*Conservation Projects Manager*

Marisa Bryant  
*Membership Coordinator*

Karen Bullock, CPA  
*Accountant*

Jennifer Colletti  
*Communications Coordinator*

Cheryl Chamblee  
*Assistant Director of Development*

Tom Craven, MEM MF  
*Director of Stewardship*

Tandy Jones  
*Land Protection Specialist*

Tracy Joseph  
*Director of Development*

Jeff Masten, MRP  
*Director of Conservation Strategies*

Liz Metz  
*Development Coordinator*

Doug Nicholas  
*Director of Communications*

Jessica Poland  
*Office Manager*

Elizabeth Rives, JD  
*Land Protection Specialist*

Doug Sprouse  
*Stewardship Specialist*

### CREDITS

**Maps:** by David Lewis

### Photos:

Cover: Reflection in the Rocky River at White Pines, Sonke Johnsen

Page 1: Charles B. Neely, Jr., courtesy of Charles B. Neely, Jr.; Mushroom, Sonke Johnsen; Mossy rock, Sonke Johnsen

Page 2: Wade & Carolyn Penny, Sonke Johnsen

Page 3: Ferns at Horton Grove, Navin Mahabir courtesy of Bryan Properties

Page 4: Holding Farm, Tom Craven; Dix campus, courtesy of Friends of Dix Park; Chatham Co. farmland, Doug Nicholas

Page 5: Tree planting, Doug Sprouse; Trail construction, Doug Sprouse; REI workday volunteers, Janet Silber

Page 11: Butterflies, Sonke Johnsen; Toad, Sonke Johnsen

Page 12: Ribbon cutting, Doug Nicholas; Chatham Co. farmland, Doug Nicholas

Inside back cover: View to Lee County White Pines across the Deep River, Doug Nicholas; (right, top to bottom) Redbud leaves, Sonke Johnsen; Wild azalea, Doug Nicholas; Maple leaves turning, Navin Mahabir courtesy of Bryan Properties; Woodland wild blue phlox, Doug Nicholas

Back cover: Pleasants farm, C.P. Shaw courtesy of The Trust for Public Land; Fern, Navin Mahabir courtesy of Bryan Properties

**Design:** www.Garrison-Cole.com

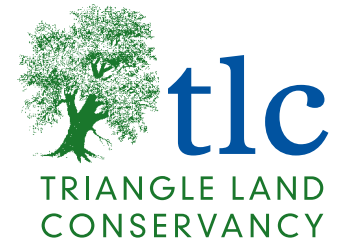


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