

ORANGE COUNTY'S LANDS LEGACY PROGRAM

In April 2000, the Orange County Board of Commissioners adopted the Lands Legacy Program to protect the county's most important natural and cultural areas through voluntary means, including purchasing land or working with private landowners to convey conservation easements.

The Lands Legacy Program was the first comprehensive county land acquisition program in North Carolina. The program has received national recognition, winning the Excellence in County Planning Award from the American Planning Association in 2007. It was also a finalist for the Leadership in Conservation Award from the Trust for Public Land and the National Association of Counties.



Golden-banded Skipper (locally extinct)

As of **December 2008**, Orange County has:

- Acquired **977** acres of land for county parkland and nature preserves
- Protected **1,550** acres of privately-owned natural areas and farmland with conservation easements



Sharp-shinned Hawk (locally extinct)

Purple Fringeless Orchid



Four-toed Salamander (locally extinct)



Neuse River Waterdog



Southern Anemone

Currently, the Lands Legacy Program has protected a total of **2,527** acres.

Table 24: Lands Legacy Acquisitions, 2000-2008

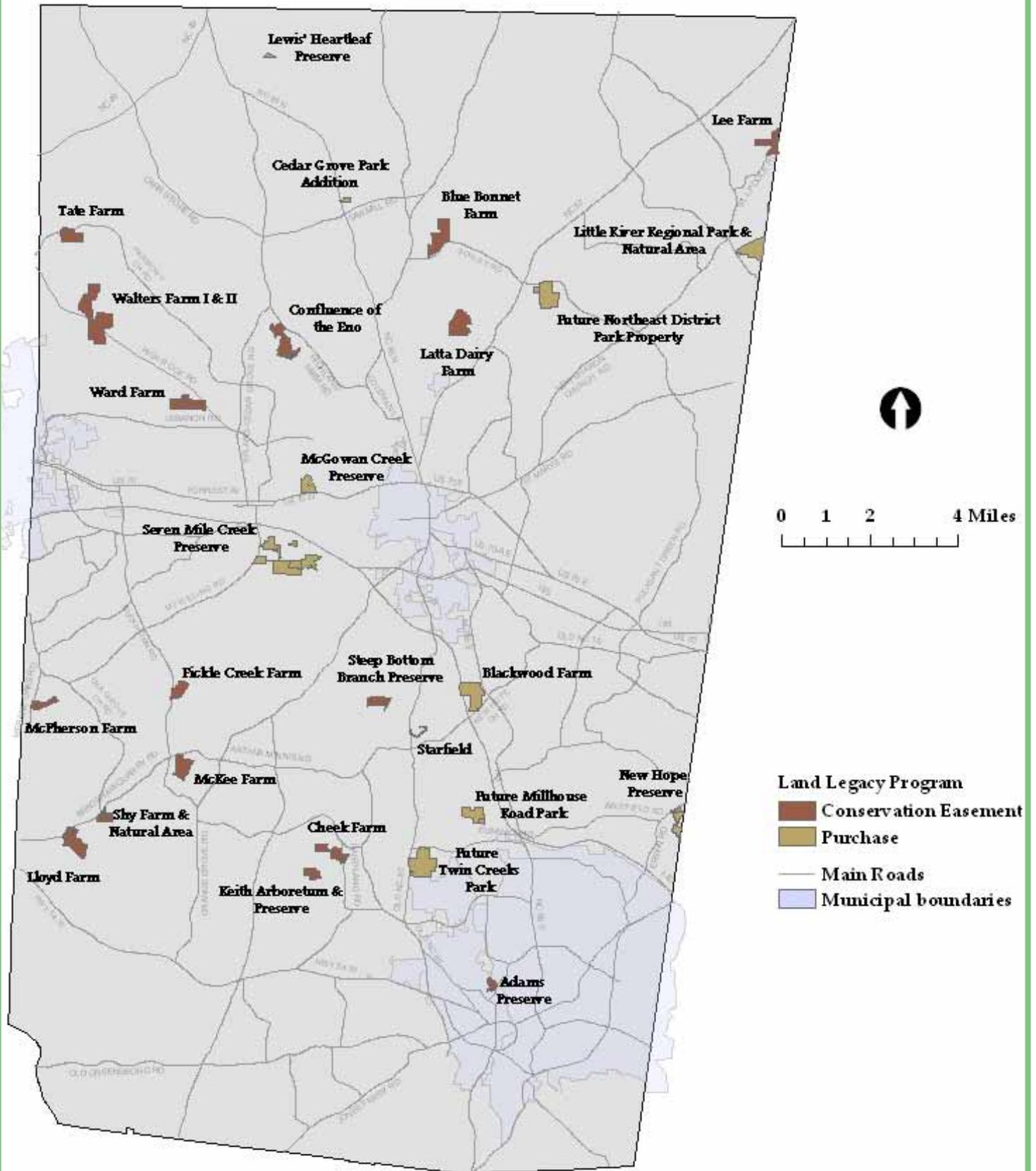
Land Purchases		
Site Name	Acres	Year
McGowan Creek Preserve	63	2000
Little River Regional Park & Natural Area*	136	2000
Twin Creeks Park/School sites	193	2001
Seven Mile Creek Preserve	134	2001
Blackwood Farm (future park)	152	2001
Cedar Grove Park addition	12	2004
Millhouse Road Park (future park)	79	2004 & 2007
New Hope Preserve (4 properties)	57	2005-07
Lewis' Heartleaf Preserve (donation)	10	2005
Northeast District Park (future park)	143	2007
Total	977	

* Little River Park includes another 255 acres acquired by/in Durham County

Note: Orange County also contributed funds to purchase 808 acres for Eno River State Park in 2003.

Conservation Easements		
Project Name	Acres	Year
Walters Farm	71	2001
Shy Conservation Area	45	2002
Hollow Rock Trail	1	2003
Walters Farm	223	2003
Volpe Conservation Area	24	2004
Starfield Subdivision	3	2004
Cheek Farm	78	2004
Adams Tract	27	2004
Steep Bottom Branch Conservation Area	65	2004
Ward Farm	112	2004
Lloyd Farm	125	2005
McPherson Farm	47	2005
Keith Arboretum and Preserve	45	2006
Fickle Creek Farm	61	2007
Latta Dairy Farm	138	2007
McKee Farm	92	2007
Tate Farm	80	2007
Lee Farm	62	2007
Blue Bonnet Farm	141	2008
Eno Confluence	110	2008
Total	1,550	

Figure 30: Lands Legacy Projects, 2000-2008



Source: Figure 30—Orange County ERCD, prepared August 6, 2009

What Can You Do to Improve the State of Your Environment?

1. Share this report with others through the following link:

http://www.co.orange.nc.us/ercd/2009_SOE_index.asp

2. Use Public Transportation.

A. Bus - <http://gotriangle.org/index.php>

- Orange Public Transit - <http://www.co.orange.nc.us/transportation/RidetheBus.asp>
- Triangle Transit - <http://www.triangletransit.org/>
- Chapel Hill Transit - <http://www.ci.chapel-hill.nc.us/index.aspx?NID=397>
- Regional Transit Providers - <http://www.co.orange.nc.us/transportation/RelatedLinks.asp>

B. Bike, Walk, Telecommute, Carpool, Vanpool - <http://www.co.orange.nc.us/transportation/BusAlternatives.asp>



Warbling Vireo



Dwarf Wedgemussel

3. Plant a garden. http://www.eartheasy.com/grow_backyard_vegetable_garden.html

4. Shop at your local farmer's market:

- Carrboro Farmers Market - <http://www.carrborofarmersmarket.com/>
- Eno River Farmers' Market - <http://www.enoriverfarmersmarket.com/>
- South Estes Farmers' Market - <http://southeastesfarmersmarket.com/>
- Hillsborough Farmers Market - <http://hillsboroughfarmersmarket.org/default.aspx>

5. Install a programmable thermostat or adjust your thermostat when leaving home for the day.

6. Consider enrolling your land in Orange County's Present Use Value Program or Voluntary Agricultural District Program.

- Contact the Orange County Tax Assessor's Office about the Present Use Value Program (919) 245-2100
- Voluntary Agricultural District Program—http://www.co.orange.nc.us/ercd/apb_voluntary_agriculture_districts.asp



Northern Oak Hairstreak

7. Maintain your septic system and test your well water:

<http://www.co.orange.nc.us/envhlth/inspections/SepticSystemAdditionalResources.asp>
<http://www.co.orange.nc.us/envhlth/inspections/WaterTesting.asp>

8. Weatherize your home to make it more energy efficient:

http://pueblo.gsa.gov/cic_text/housing/weather/weather.htm

9. Support local businesses to keep your money within the community:

<http://www.webuylocal.org/about>

10. Follow best management practices for maintaining your yard, farm and forest land:

- http://www.dfr.state.nc.us/water_quality/water_quality.htm
- <http://www.co.orange.nc.us/soilwater/index.asp>
- <http://www.epa.gov/watertrain/agmodule/>

11. Visit your local parks and nature preserves:

- <http://www.co.orange.nc.us/RecParks/parks.asp>
- http://www.co.orange.nc.us/ercd/future_parks_and_preserves.asp
- http://townhall.townofchapelhill.org/parks_&_rec/facilities_greenways_&_parks/
- <http://www.ci.carrboro.nc.us/RP/parks.htm>

12. Change your light bulbs to compact fluorescents:

- http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=cfls.pr_cfls
- <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/28/business/energy-environment/28bulbside.html>



Smooth Coneflower (locally extinct)

13. Run multiple errands at one time. http://www.driveless.savemore.com/driving/trip_chaining/

14. Properly abandon your out of use well:
<http://www.co.orange.nc.us/envhlth/inspections/documents/WellAbandonmentPacket.pdf>

15. Do not dispose of grease, oil or unused medications down the drain or the toilet:

- <http://www.owasa.org/Documents/DocView.aspx?IDX=1124>
- <http://www.p2pays.org/ref/20/19024/19024ac.pdf>



Eastern Shooting Star (locally extinct)

16. Consider a conservation easement for your property:

- Contact the ERCD at (919) 245-2590, http://www.co.orange.nc.us/ercd/lands_legacy.asp or Triangle Land Conservancy, <http://www.triangleland.org>.

17. Recycle glass, plastic, mixed paper, cardboard, oil, batteries, aluminum, newspaper, magazines at your nearest convenience center or at the curb: <http://www.co.orange.nc.us/recycling/community.asp>

18. Dispose of hazardous waste, electronics, metal, wood and appliances properly by taking them to the Orange County Landfill and Convenience Center on Eubanks Road: <http://www.co.orange.nc.us/recycling/hhw.asp>

19. Conserve water:

- <http://www.h2orange.org/linkwaterconservation.asp>
- http://www.bae.ncsu.edu/programs/extension/publicat/wqwm/ag508_3/
- http://www.bae.ncsu.edu/programs/extension/publicat/wqwm/ag508_6.html
- http://www.bae.ncsu.edu/programs/extension/publicat/wqwm/ag508_1.html

20. Get a soil test done through Orange County Cooperative Extension prior to fertilizing your yard. <http://www.agr.state.nc.us/agronomi/sthome.htm>

21. Make your voice heard; get involved in the political process. <http://www.co.orange.nc.us/boards/listing.asp>

ORANGE COUNTY CONTACTS

Environment & Resource Conservation Department (ERCD): <http://www.co.orange.nc.us/ercd/index.asp>

Commission for the Environment: http://www.co.orange.nc.us/ercd/commission_for_environment.asp

Health Department—Environmental Health Services: <http://www.co.orange.nc.us/envhlth/index.asp>

Board of County Commissioners: <http://www.co.orange.nc.us/OCCLERKS/bocc.asp>

Cooperative Extension: <http://orange.ces.ncsu.edu/>



Indian Physic
(locally extinct)



Large Witch-alder



Crested Coralroot



Bradley's Spleenwort