

What Does the Land Trust Protect?

Mission

The Central Savannah River Land Trust is committed to safeguarding the forests, wetlands, and open spaces that define our region's character. Our mission is to preserve these areas of natural beauty today, and leave a legacy of environmental stewardship that lasts for generations.

*preserving our natural landscape,
forever*

The Conservation Easement

Our main vehicle for protecting these areas is the conservation easement. A conservation easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values. It allows the landowner to continue to own and use the land, to sell it, or pass it on to heirs.

Selecting for Quality and Permanence

In order to maximize the Land Trust's success in achieving our mission, we evaluate all potential conservation properties on how they contribute to the following nine criteria:

1. Flood Protection
2. Erosion Protection
3. Wetlands Protection
4. Buffer Protection (particularly of water bodies)
5. Protection of Water Quality
6. Scenic/Viewshed Protection
7. Recreational Potential
8. Historic Value
9. Connection Potential (to other conserved or natural areas)

These criteria are based on the indicators developed by the GA Department of Natural Resources for the Georgia Community Greenspace Program. They represent the wide range of ecological values which a conservation easement seeks to protect. In order to qualify for a conservation easement, a property must score highly in several of these categories. The Board of Directors reserves the right to ultimately decide whether or not to accept a conservation easement or donation of conservation property, based upon how strongly the property supports the achievement of the Land Trust's mission.

For more information on conservation easements and properties currently protected with the Land Trust, visit us at www.csrlt.org or contact our offices at 706-312-LAND.