



The Durham County Farmland Protection Program



Caywood Farm

Caywood Farm is a 300 acre farm along Moores Mill Road, a state designated Scenic Byway in north Durham County, that provides significant scenic and open space benefits, preservation of nationally significant natural habitats, protection of water quality, and supports rural and agricultural land uses.

This farm is one of the largest intact working farms remaining in Durham County and is located within the Flat River Agricultural Area, an area designated in 2003 by the Durham County Board of Commissioners as one of three priority areas for funding permanent protection of significant farmlands.

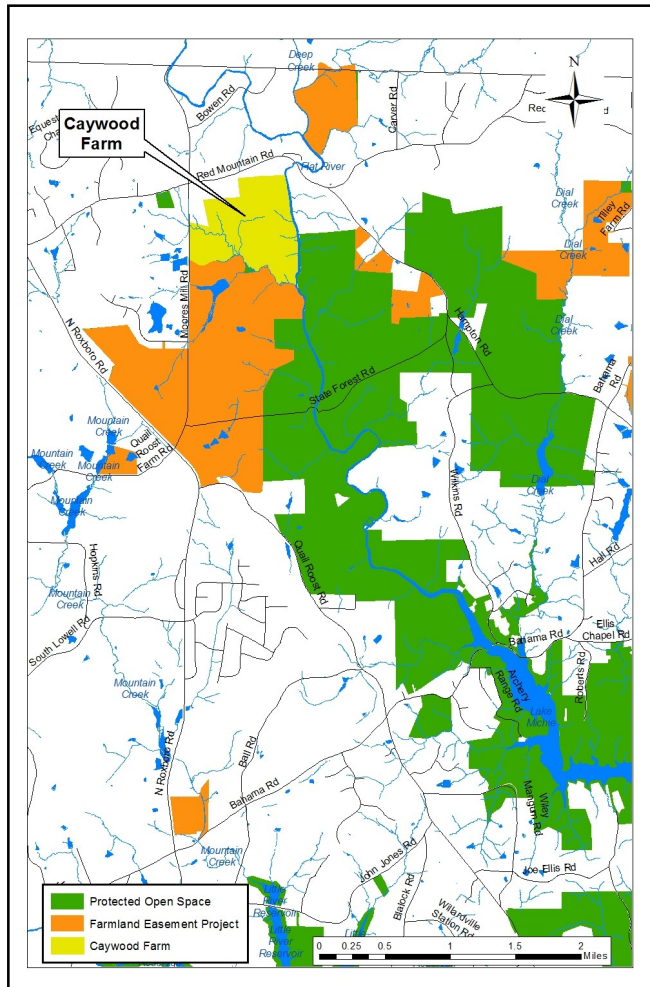


The easement area consists of forested areas and pastureland for grazing beef cattle. The eastern-most property line of Caywood Farm is 4,240 feet along the Flat River which *The Durham County Inventory of Important Natural Areas, Plants, and Wildlife (1999)* produced by the State's Natural Heritage Program identified as "nationally significant" due to the presence of rare and threatened aquatic species in the river. The landowner's land management practices support the continuation of this high quality aquatic habitat as well as important upland wildlife habitats. Bobcat and black bear have been sighted on the property. In 2017 a pair of American Bald Eagles nested in the woods near the River. Other significant bird and mammal species frequent the property.





Caywood Farm preserves more than 3/4 mile adjacent to the Flat River, rated as nationally significant due to the rare aquatic species it supports.



Financial Aspects

In 2012 when the easement was purchased, the overall easement project was valued at \$1,180,000 for the 300 acre easement. The federal Farm and Ranchlands Protection program paid \$590,000 towards the easement purchase for approximately 50% of the value of the easement, and the owners donated another \$280,000 by selling the easement for less than its appraised value, called a "bargain sale". With the grant funds and partial donation, Durham County paid an average of \$1,033 per acre for permanently protecting this 300 acre farm.

For further information on this conservation easement project or other Durham County open space projects, please contact Jane Korest, Division Head, Durham County Open Space and Real Estate at 919-560-7955.

Note: Caywood Farm is still privately owned as a working farm. Please enjoy the view from the road but respect the landowner's privacy.