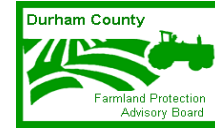




The Durham County Farmland Protection Program



Little Mountain Farm

Little Mountain farm comprises over 920 acres along U.S. 501 North and Moore's Mill Road in northern Durham. This impressive farm is considered the largest remaining working farm in Durham County. Little Mountain Farm includes fields, hardwood forests, riparian buffers and farm ponds. The property is a key farm along the "North Durham Country Byway," a scenic route designated by the State of North Carolina's Scenic Byways program.

The property shares almost 2 miles of property boundary with NCSU's Hill Forest, and also includes 1,446 feet along the Flat River. The woodland on the farm adjacent to Hill Forest comprises part of the Inventory site identified as the "Flat River Slopes and Aquatic Habitat" in the *Durham County Inventory of Natural Areas and Rare Species*, produced by the State of North Carolina's Natural Heritage Program. This natural habitat has state-wide/national significance due to the increasing rarity of several species, the quality and extent of the undeveloped woodlands, and the importance of contiguous woodland and river habitats. The Durham Inventory specifically recommends preservation of the privately-owned sections of this significant natural habitat. The Durham Comprehensive Plan also recommends that privately-owned portions of Durham Inventory sites be protected.



In addition to the Flat River frontage, the property contains 2.8 miles of smaller perennial and intermittent streams; protection of these smaller wooded streams help to maintain the water quality of Lake Michie. Water quality is further protected by the six farm ponds found throughout the property, which filter water and collect sediments. The conservation easements will prevent future residential development on this 920 acre farm, thereby reducing stormwater runoff, sediments and nutrient

loading into the Flat River, which flows into Lake Michie, a drinking supply for Durham residents.



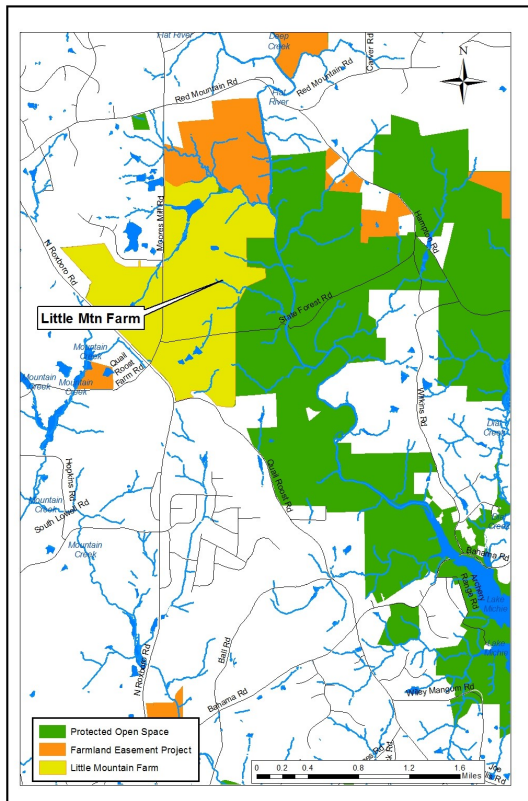
Little Mountain Farm preserves more than 900 acres of permanent farm and forest land along Moore's Mill Road, which is part of a state designated scenic byway.



The farm presently consists of four contiguous tracts of land between 169 and 355 acres. Under the easement restrictions each tract may have one homesite which may not be subdivided off into a separate lot. The farm is limited to two percent (2%) impervious surface, substantially less than that permitted in the watershed under current development regulations. The farm is required to conduct any farm operations in conformance with current best management practices; the owners are long-standing stewards of their farmland, and were one of the first farms in the County to adopt "no till" practices in the 1970's for soil conservation.

Stretching Durham's Investment

Durham County has been fortunate to receive strong state and federal support for the preservation of this significant farm. Little Mountain Farm was awarded three years' of federal Farm and Ranchlands Protection program funding, totaling \$1,720,000. In 2007, the farm was awarded a \$534,000 state Clean Water Management Trust Fund grant



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on the wooded stream buffers on the property. The owners donated approximately \$890,000 in the easement's value, in a "bargain sale" which means that the easement is purchased at less than its appraised value. Durham County provided \$1,110,000 towards the project. In all, Durham County will have protected over 920 acres of permanent working farmland, ecologically significant woodlands and streams, and reduced future development within a Durham drinking water supply watershed for an average cost of \$1,100 per acre.

For further information on this conservation easement project, please contact Jane Korest, Durham County Open Space & Real Estate at 919-560-7955.

Note: Little Mountain farm remains a private working farm. Please enjoy the views from the road while respecting the landowner's privacy.