

2020 WETLAND TREASURES OF THE CAROLINAS



Photos courtesy of Triangle Land Conservancy

BROGDEN BOTTOMLANDS

Cypress-Gum Swamp

BROGDEN BOTTOMLANDS

Property Owner: Triangle Land Conservancy
Recognitions & Designations: NC Natural Heritage Area
(NC Natural Heritage Program)

ECOLOGY & SIGNIFICANCE

Brogden Bottomlands is a 1,120 acre site on the Neuse River purchased by Triangle Land Conservancy in 2019. The tract sits in the heart of the Neuse Lowgrounds and is the largest unprotected natural heritage area as well as one of the largest contiguous pieces of undeveloped land in private ownership in the Triangle region of North Carolina. The Neuse Lowgrounds lie southeast of Smithfield in Johnston County where the Neuse River spreads out to a vast floodplain full of wetlands, sloughs, levees, and extensive mature cypress and bottomland hardwood forests. The Lowgrounds is one of the most extraordinary wilderness areas in the Southeast, essentially undeveloped and roadless for 10 square miles. The site protects one of the largest wetland areas in the Triangle region.

With over two miles of frontage on the Neuse River and an additional 13,715 feet of streams feeding the Neuse, the many vernal pools, small wetland areas, sloughs, and oxbow lakes on the property are actively providing both clean water and flood control for downstream communities. The massive floodplain is both effective and critical for filtering impurities from the Triangle's urban stormwater runoff, and absorbing stormwater and floodwaters.



Neuse River at flood stage in the bottomlands

This property is acting as one of the largest natural Best Management Practices (BMPs) on the Neuse River.

FLORA & FAUNA

The property is an exceptional wildlife habitat for neotropical birds, fox squirrels, black bears, coyotes, bobcats, and other rare species. The bottomland hardwoods are dominated by cherrybark oak, overcup oak, swamp chestnut oak, and red maple. Water hickory, American hornbeam are also found in the preserve. In addition, large swaths of NC's native rivercane dominate the understory and create excellent habitat for migrating birds. The tract also contains several oxbow lakes, vernal pools, and large sloughs which provide excellent habitat for salamanders, frogs, and other reptiles and amphibians.

THREATS

The purchase and protection of the Brogden Bottomlands will preserve the site's floodplain and wildlife habitat functions in a highly developed agricultural area of the Neuse watershed.

ACCESS

The site is currently not open to the public.

SOURCES

Triangle Land Conservancy. Click [Here](#) for more Info.

