

## North Carolina Natural Heritage Program Natural Areas

The Natural Heritage Natural Areas (nhna) shapefile identifies terrestrial and aquatic sites that are of special biodiversity significance. A natural area's significance may be due to the presence of rare species, exemplary natural communities, or important animal assemblages, referred to collectively as "Elements" of biodiversity. The boundaries of the Natural Area are drawn by North Carolina Natural Heritage Program (NCNHP) staff, based on field surveys conducted by NCNHP staff and other professional biologists. Conditions on the ground may have changed since the boundaries were drawn, and areas outside of boundaries do not necessarily fail to qualify for natural area status; they simply may not have been surveyed. Thus, the boundaries are considered approximate. The effects of a project on a natural area depend on the nature of the species or communities it contains and on the nature of the action being considered. Because the data can become outdated as conditions on the ground change, the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program should be consulted, and field surveys should be conducted to verify conditions, before using the data in making land-use decisions. Please use the following format when acknowledging products derived from this data set:

- a. If data are accessed via the Data Explorer website, the citation shall be:  
North Carolina Natural Heritage Program. <year>. Natural Heritage Data Explorer [web application]. NCDNCR, Raleigh, NC. Available at [www.ncnhp.org](http://www.ncnhp.org). (Accessed: <date>).
- b. If GIS data are cited, the citation shall be:  
North Carolina Natural Heritage Program. <data year>. Geographic Information System (GIS) data. NCDNCR, Raleigh, NC. Available at [www.ncnhp.org](http://www.ncnhp.org). (Accessed: <data\_date>).

While efforts have been made to ensure that these data are accurate and reliable, the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program cannot assume liability for any damages or misrepresentation caused by any inaccuracies in the data.

If you have questions or comments, contact us at: North Carolina Natural Heritage Program, 1651 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1651 or visit <http://www.ncnhp.org>.

**Projection:** NC State Plane, **datum:** NAD83, **units:** meters

### Attributes

The **Natural Area ID (NA\_ID)** is a number that uniquely identifies the natural area record in the NC NHP database.

The **Acreage (ACRES)** is the area of the natural area.

The **Natural Area Name (NA\_NAME)** is the name given to the natural area by the NCNHP.

A list of the **Owners (OWNER)** of the natural area. Values are:

<b>ACRONYM</b>	<b>OWNER</b>
ASU	Appalachian State University
BHIC	Bald Head Island Conservancy

<b>ACRONYM</b>	<b>OWNER</b>
CATW	Catawba College
CHC	Chowan College
CHER	Cherokee Indian Reservation
CLC	Catawba Lands Conservancy
CLL	Carolina Land and Lakes RC&D
CMLC	Carolina Mountains Land Conservancy
CTNC	Conservation Trust of North Carolina
CWMTF	NC DNCR, Clean Water Management Trust Fund
DUKE	Duke University
ECSU	Elizabeth City State University
ECU	East Carolina University
ERA	Eno River Association
FCNC	Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina
FEL	Felburn Foundation
HBF	Highlands Biological Foundation
HCC	High Country Conservancy
HCLT	Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust
HSWLT	Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust
JCC	Johnston Community College
LOCAL	Local government (county or municipal)
LRC	Lumber River Conservancy
LTCNC	Land Trust for Central North Carolina
LTLT	Land Trust for the Little Tennessee
MCC	Martin Community College
NAS	National Audubon Society
NCA	NC Arboretum
NCAQU	NC DNCR, Aquariums
NCBGF	North Carolina Botanical Garden Foundation
NCCF	North Carolina Coastal Federation
NCCLT	North Carolina Coastal Land Trust
NCDA	NC Department of Agriculture
NCDCM	NC DNCR, Division of Coastal Management
NCDMF	NC DEQ, Division of Marine Fisheries
NCDMS	NC DEQ, Division of Mitigation Services
NCDNCR	NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
NCDOA	NC Department of Administration
NCDOC	NC Department of Corrections
NCDOT	NC Department of Transportation
NCDPR	NC DNCR, Division of Parks and Recreation
NCDPS	NC Department of Public Safety
NCFF	North Carolina Forestry Foundation
NCFS	NC Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
NCGTP	North Carolina Global TransPark

<b>ACRONYM</b>	<b>OWNER</b>
NCHHS	NC Department of Health and Human Services
NCHS	North Carolina Herpetological Society
NCMNS	NC DNCR, Museum of Natural Sciences
NCNG	NC National Guard
NCNHP	NC DNCR, Natural Heritage Program
NCPA	NC State Ports Authority
NCPCP	NC Department of Agriculture, Plant Conservation Program
NCSU	North Carolina State University
NCWRC	NC Wildlife Resources Commission
NCZOO	NC DNCR, Zoological Park
NENHC	Northeast New Hanover Conservancy
NSL	National Scout Lands
PAC	Pacolet Area Conservancy
PCC	Piedmont Community College
PLC	Piedmont Land Conservancy
PRV	Private
PW	Public Waters
RCC	Rockingham Community College
SAFC	Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition
SAHC	Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy
SALT	Sandhills Area Land Trust
SCC	Sandhills Community College
SWCD	Soil and Water Conservation District
TCF	The Conservation Fund
TLC	Triangle Land Conservancy
TMF	The Mattamuskeet Foundation
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TRLC	Tar River Land Conservancy
UNCA	University of North Carolina - Asheville
UNCC	University of North Carolina - Charlotte
UNCCH	University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
UNCW	University of North Carolina - Wilmington
USACE	US Army Corps of Engineers
USCG	US Coast Guard
USDOD	US Department of Defense
USEPA	US Environmental Protection Agency
USFS	US Forest Service
USFWS	US Fish and Wildlife Service
USNPS	US National Park Service
USVOA	US Voice of America
WCU	Western Carolina University

The **Representational Rating (R\_RATING)** is designed to indicate a natural area's potential to contribute to a collection of the best locations for each tracked element within the state.

<b>REPRESENTATIONAL RATING</b>	<b>DEFINITION</b>
R1 (Exceptional)	Natural area contains one of the best two examples of G1 or G2 elements*.
R2 (Very High)	Natural area contains the 3 <sup>rd</sup> or 4 <sup>th</sup> best examples in the state of G1-G2 elements, and/or one of the best two examples of other elements.
R3 (High)	Natural area contains the 5 <sup>th</sup> to 8 <sup>th</sup> best examples in the state of G1-G2 elements and/or the 3 <sup>rd</sup> to 6 <sup>th</sup> best occurrences of any G3-G5 Element within it.
R4 (Moderate)	Natural area contains the 9 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> best examples in the state of G1-G2 elements within it and/or the 7 <sup>th</sup> to 10 <sup>th</sup> best occurrences any G3-G5 Element within it.
R5 (General)	Natural area contains site contains the 13 <sup>th</sup> to 30 <sup>th</sup> best examples in the state of G1-G2 Elements within it and/or the 11 <sup>th</sup> to 30 <sup>th</sup> best occurrences of any G3-G5 Element within it.
R5? (General?)	Natural area thought to have a representational rating of General, but further inventory is needed.
n/a (Not Applicable)	A representational rating currently cannot be assigned to the natural area.

\*G-Ranks are a measure of global imperilment of elements of biodiversity. G1=Critically imperiled, G2=Imperiled, G3=Vulnerable, G4=Apparently secure, G5=Secure. G-Ranks follow NatureServe methodology.

The **Collective Rating (C\_RATING)** evaluates the conservation value of each natural area based on the number of tracked elements present and the rarity of those elements, weighted in terms of both global and statewide imperilment of the element. The score of a natural area is calculated by summing the weighed scores of all the extant elements in the natural area.

<b>COLLECTIVE RATING</b>	<b>MINIMUM NUMBER OF ELEMENTS IN NATURAL AREA</b>	<b>CUMULATIVE ELEMENT SCORE</b>
C1 (Exceptional)	10	91 and above
C2 (Very High)	7	61-90
C3 (High)	4	31-60
C4 (Moderate)	2	11-30
C5 (General)	1	2-10
C? (Unranked)	A collective rating currently cannot be assigned to the natural area.	

The **Top Rating (TOP\_RATING)** is the highest value of the representational and collective ratings.

The **Data Date (DATA\_DATE)** is the date that the shapefile was exported from the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program's database. Format of the date is: yyyy-mm-dd.