The state completed the purchase of the Heritage Tract last fall for $5.4 million. The tract, mainly in Chester and Lancaster counties, will remain undeveloped and be managed by the KawaTba Valley Land Trust, which will preserve the shoreline of the Catawba River in this area rich in beauty and history.

Trail in the works

Much of the Heritage Tract is undeveloped and not accessible to the public. But Great Falls has received a $50,000 grant for trail construction on the north side of Rocky Creek. An engineering firm is taking a look at the property to determine construction costs, which will determine the length of the trail.

Rare plants?

KVLT President Lindsay Pettus said the new acquisitions fit the land trust’s mission of preserving the land and passing it along for future generations. Pettus said the new acquisitions fit the land trust’s mission of preserving the land and passing it along for future generations.

Proposed trail extension

The three entities who will handle the land trust’s trail project are the Catawba River Land Trust, the S.C. Conservation Bank, and the Kvatva Valley Land Trust. The land trust will manage the trail and pass the land to its successors.

Historical landmark: Grist mill

The state finalized the purchase of 1,540 acres in the tract last fall. The S.C. Conservation Bank, Duke Energy Habitat Enhancement Program and Kvatva Valley Land Trust members provided the funds to buy the Rocky Creek property this year. Conservation easements were donated by Crescent Resources, the real-estate arm of Duke Energy. Lindsay Pettus hopes that 100 years from now, the land in the trust will still be preserving plant and animal species, bird habitats and trails.

1,540
Number of acres in the Heritage Tract

Q: What is a conservation easement?
A: A conservation easement is a voluntary contract between a private landowner and a conservation organization. They restrict the use of the land forever. The terms of the easement become part of the deed and pass from one owner to the next.

1,000
Number of species that live in and around the Catawba River

Rocky Creek is one of many places on the Heritage Tract where you’ll find picturesque scenes.

"It (the gist mill) brought people from miles around. It was the center of activity, not only economically, but socially."

— Lindsay Pettus

How the tract was put together

Proposed trail

Historical landmark: Grist mill

In the new Rocky Creek-area acquisition are the remains of a very early 1800s grist mill built, likely built by Benjamin Hart. Later known as Pickett’s Mill, this mill ground grain for settlers of the area and livestock. It became a well-known trading area for many miles. A cotton gin, a saw mill, operation, country store and a tannery were also established on this site. Greenberry Montgomery, an owner of the mill, also built a barn there.

Whatser buildings were there in February 1805, they were destroyed by Gen. William D. Sherman’s Federal troops as they moved across the Rocky Creek at Rocky Mount/Great Falls.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GREAT FALLS HOME TOWN ASSOCIATION

Here is an aerial of the area around Great Falls. Most everything on the left side and the top of the photo is the Heritage Tract.

A cactus blossoms in the sunlight on a portion of the Heritage Tract.

Heritage Tract preserves river’s shore

Alexander

President Keith Tunnell.

"Often times, all of us have had a need for office space, a place to meet,” said Chamber President Keith Tunnell. Tunnell made it clear that the development corporation is not moving to the Pinckney Building.

CHAMBER, LCEDC GET OFFICE

Employment Security Commission also to share space in donated Panhandle office