



**CAROLINA
THREAD
TRAIL**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL AWARDS \$755,500 FOR TRAIL PROJECTS TO 16 PARTNERS

Charlotte, N.C. – More spaces to safely access and enjoy nature will soon be on the way thanks to the Carolina Thread Trail. As Carolinians continue to face challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, finding safe places to gather and recreate with family and friends is top of mind. To help, the Governing Board of the Thread Trail recently approved distribution of \$752,500 in grant funding for expanding and advancing public trails across 15 counties in North and South Carolina.

The Thread Trail's Implementation Grant Program provides funding to communities and nonprofit organizations to support trail construction, design, land acquisition and corridor planning. Over the past 11 years, the Thread Trail has awarded nearly \$8 million in catalytic grants to communities. Currently, 350 miles of greenways and trails, as well as 170 miles of blueways, are open to the public within the Thread Trail system.

The grant award amount, community information and the use of the grants follow:

BELMONT, N.C. - \$30,000 Acquisition

To help with land acquisition for the construction of Abbey Creek Greenway, which runs parallel to Wilkinson Blvd., and will connect to Loftin Park on the Catawba River.

BESSEMER CITY, N.C. - \$15,000 Trail Corridor Plan

To conduct a trail corridor study to determine the best alignment for a trail extension at the South-Ridge Parkway Industrial Park that will serve residents and employees and approach the western side of Gastonia with an eventual connection underneath I-85.

CATAWBA LANDS CONSERVANCY - \$5,000 Kayak Launch

To construct a new canoe/kayak launch at Spencer Mountain River Access, the northern-most paddling input along the South Fork Catawba River Blueway. The launch will improve safe access to the blueway for residents and visitors to Gaston County.

CONCORD, N.C. - \$30,000 Design

To design an extension of Irish Buffalo Creek Greenway, connecting Caldwell Park to Lincoln Street and Melrose Drive.

CRAMERTON, N.C. - \$86,000 Construction

To improve the Rocky Branch Trail at Stuart Cramer High School, which provides a critical trail connection between Cramerton and Belmont.

GREAT FALLS, S.C. - \$30,000 Design

To design the 3.5-mile Great Falls Rail Trail along the Catawba River, which will provide important pedestrian and bicycle access to the future Dearborn Island State Park and its recreational opportunities.

IREDELL COUNTY, N.C. - \$30,000 Design

To design a 1.4-mile extension of Fourth Creek Greenway between Big Leaf Slopes Park and Greenbriar Road, where it will also connect to the future extension of the Broad Street segment of the Statesville Greenway resulting in 7 miles of continuous trail.

KINGS MOUNTAIN, N.C. - \$30,000 Trail Corridor Study

To conduct a design and feasibility study that explores future segments and connections of the Kings Mountain Gateway Trail between the Town of Kings Mountain and Crowders Mountain State Park.

LOWELL, N.C. - \$8,000 Design

To fund the design of a potential future extension of the South Fork Trail, which facilitates an eventual connection to Poston Park.

MARSHVILLE, N.C. - \$14,500 Construction

To fund construction of the Town of Marshville Connector trail. Funding will improve the trail within the Municipal Park, improve crosswalks, and expand the trail by connecting to a nearby neighborhoods.

MOUNT PLEASANT, N.C. - \$47,000 Construction

To expand the existing parking lot at Buffalo Creek Preserve, therefore increasing access to the preserve and an existing Carolina Thread Trail.

ROCK HILL, S.C. - \$30,000 Design

To design a 0.2-mile extension of the Jack White Trail along Dave Lyle Blvd., which facilitates a connection of the Manchester Creek trail corridor from the Catawba River to downtown Rock Hill.

SHELBY, N.C. - \$200,000 Construction

To construct a 0.8-mile segment of rail trail that will connect an existing Thread Trail to Uptown Shelby. This is the first phase of an eventual 11-mile rail trail connection from Shelby to the S.C. state line.

SPENCER, N.C. - \$50,000 Construction

To construct the Yadkin River Park Trailhead and Greenway Connector, a first step toward providing a connection between Spencer and Salisbury and across the Wil-Cox Bridge to Davidson County.

RICHFIELD, N.C. - FALCON TRAIL \$100,000 Construction

To construct the 2.75-mile Tom Webb segment of the Falcon Trail, extending the existing trail from Richfield Park.

WAXHAW, N.C. - \$50,000 Construction

To fund construction of the 12 Mile Creek Greenway, formerly a private trail that will be improved and made accessible to the public. The trail will expand the existing portion of the 12 Mile Creek Greenway, which crosses the N.C.-S.C. state line.

For more information about the Thread Trail's implementation grant program, visit www.carolinathreadtrail.org or contact Carolina Thread Trail Director, Bret Baronak at 704-376-2556 ext. 216 or bret@carolinathreadtrail.org.

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About The Carolina Thread Trail

The Carolina Thread Trail is a 15-county, two-state initiative designed to create a regional network of trails, blueways and conservation corridors that will link more than 2.9 million people. With technical resources and catalytic funding from the Thread Trail, local communities plan and implement their portions of this greenway system.

The Carolina Thread Trail region includes Anson, Cabarrus, Catawba, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanly and Union counties within North Carolina and Cherokee, Chester, Lancaster and York counties in South Carolina. Catawba Lands Conservancy is the lead agency for the Thread Trail, which is working in partnership with Foundation for the Carolinas and many local partners. Currently, more than 350 miles of Thread Trail are open to the public. For more information, visit www.carolinathreadtrail.org