

# South Carolina



## Planning Education Advisory Committee

Committee Members:

Stephen G. Riley, Chairman  
Representing MASC  
Term Expires: 2017

Phillip L. Lindler  
Representing SCAC  
Term expires: 2019

Cliff Ellis  
Representing Clemson University  
Term expires: 2020

Wayne Shuler  
Representing SCAPA  
Term expires: 2018

September 3, 2020

City of Tega Cay  
Susan Britt, AICP  
Planning & Development Manager  
7725 Tega Cay Dr.  
Tega Cay, SC 29708

Re: *Applications for Accreditation of CE credits for New Program*

Dear Ms. Britt:

On August 12, 2020, I received the program materials you submitted for the "Advancing a Regional Trail and Greenway Network." Upon receipt of the materials, an email was sent to confirm receipt by all Committee members as well as a deadline set for comments.

Under the "no objection policy" adopted July 8, 2009, the request for accreditation of this program has been approved, and the signed "Notice of Decision" is attached. A formal after-the-fact approval will be handled as part of a Consent Agenda at the regular quarterly meeting of the Committee, scheduled at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 10, 2020.

Thank you for your efforts to help make this program a success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen G. Riley".

Stephen G. Riley, ICMA~CM  
Chairman

cc: Phillip Lindler, Cliff Ellis, and Wayne Shuler

*South Carolina Planning Education Advisory Committee (SCPEAC)*

**NOTICE OF DECISION**

**Title of Program:** Advancing a Regional Trail and Greenway Network

**The following action has been taken by the SCPEAC on this application:**


ACCEPTED WITHOUT OBJECTION      Date: September 3, 2020

REVIEWED BY FULL COMMITTEE      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- a)      X   ACCREDITED for: 90 min. CE credits: 1.5
- b)    \_\_\_\_\_ DENIED ACCREDITATION
- c)    \_\_\_\_\_ RETURNED for more information

**If accredited:**

- a)    Authorized Course No.: 2020-04
- b)    Date of accreditation: 09/03/2020

Signature of SCPEAC Representative: \_\_\_\_\_  


**For further information, contact Mr. Stephen G. Riley, Chairman,  
843-341-4701 or [stever@hiltonheadislandsc.gov](mailto:stever@hiltonheadislandsc.gov)**

**APPLICATION FOR ACCREDITATION  
OF A CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Note: This certification form, together with the required information referenced therein, shall be submitted to the Committee. If no objections are raised by a member of the SCPEAC within 10 working days of receipt, the continuing education program shall be considered accepted. If an objection is raised, a teleconference meeting shall be scheduled, with appropriate public notice, as soon as reasonably possible, to review the application.

Applications are due no later than 30 days prior to the first scheduled presentation of a program or class. The Committee will consider extenuating circumstances where the 30 day deadline cannot be met.

**1. Name and address of organization providing or sponsoring the orientation program:**

- a. Organization Name: City of Tega Cay jointly with Town of Fort Mill
- b. Address: 7725 Tega Cay Drive
- c. City: Tega Cay
- d. State: SC  
Zip Code: 29708
- e. Telephone: 803.548.3513
- f. Email: sbritt@tegacaysc.gov

**2. Contact Information:**

- a. Name of Contact Person: Susan Britt, AICP
- b. Title: Planning and Development Manager
- c. Telephone: 803.578.8531
- d. Email: sbritt@tegacaysc.gov

**3. Information on orientation program:**

- a. Title of Program:

Advancing a Regional Trail and Greenway Network

- b. Date(s) and Location(s) of Program:

Thursday, September 24, 6:00 to 7:30 pm, Virtual Meeting via a Web Application

- c. Brief description of the program and its content:

This session will discuss a collective regional vision of connected trails and green space including partnerships, investment, and implementation. Please see attached full description.

**4. Method of presentation (check all that apply. All sessions must have a Coordinator present):**

- a. Presenter(s) in room with participants

- b. Live presentation via close circuit TV, video conferencing, or similar; Coordinator present
- c. Videotape or CD/DVD presentation; Facilitator present
- d. Webinar or similar; Coordinator present
- e. Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Description of materials to be distributed (check/fill in all that apply):**

a. Powerpoint handout:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	number of slides: Unknown at this time
b. Other handouts:	<input type="checkbox"/>	total pages:
c. CD/DVD:	<input type="checkbox"/>	
d. Other (describe)		_____
e. None:	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**6. When are materials distributed?**

- a. Sent before the program:
- b. Handed out at the program:
- c. Other (describe) An Adobe file of the PowerPoint will be emailed to registered participants,

**7. Required attachments (5 copies distributed as described below):**

- a. Course description and outline including estimated time per section
- b. Brochure, if available
- c. Course Presenter(s) and credentials (include brief resumes and qualifications)
- d. Copies of all handouts and course materials
- e. Evaluation Form and method of evaluation (each program must be evaluated)

**8. Instruction Time:**

- a. Indicate the total minutes of instruction time: 1 hour and 30 minutes

**Note:** Breaks, meals and introductions should not be counted. A reasonable period of Q and A should be included and counted.

**9. Method of Advertisement:**

- a. Describe the ways in which you intend to let potential attendees know about this orientation program:

Email notice to all members of Board of Zoning Appeals & Planning Commissions for each jurisdiction. Also notices on social media and websites.

**10. Certification. By Submitting this application, the applicant agrees to:**

- a. Allow in-person observation, without charge, of the Program by the SCPEAC Committee members. Any food, travel or lodging costs will be the responsibility of the Committee member(s).

b. The applicant acknowledges that its approval for this Program may be withdrawn for violations of the regulations or failure to comply with the agreements and representations contained herein and as may be required by the SCPEAC.

i. Name of Organization: City of Tega Cay

ii. Name of Representative: Susan Britt, AICP

iii. Title: Planning and Development Manager

iv. Phone: 803.578.8531

v. Email: sbritt@tegacaysc.gov

vi. Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

vii. Date: August 10, 2020

**Application and all Materials may be submitted in one of the following means:**

1. Electronic submission to each of the committee members listed below via email; or
2. Hardcopy via U. S. Mail, 1 copy each to each committee member; or
3. Electronic submission of the application via email to all committee members, and submit hardcopy supporting materials via U.S. Mail to each member, if materials not available electronically.
4. Please cc all applications to the Chairman's assistant, Krista Wiedmeyer at [kristaw@hiltonheadislandsc.gov](mailto:kristaw@hiltonheadislandsc.gov)

To access committee members email and postal addresses visit the link below:

<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/SCPEAC/members.htm>

## Advancing a Regional Trail and Greenway Network

This will be a two-part program. The first part will be presented by Bret Baronak, Project Director for The Carolina Thread Trail. The Carolina Thread Trail is a regional network of trails that connect 2.9 million people in 15 counties in North and South Carolina. The Thread Trail is an example of unprecedented regional collaboration that works to connect people and communities to nature and each other through its 1,610 miles of trails, greenways and blueways. Bret will discuss the genesis of The Carolina Thread Trail organization, relationships with other land conservancies, government partnerships, funding and implementation of a regional vision.

The second part of the program will be presented by John Gordon with the Anne Springs Close Greenway. The Anne Springs Close Greenway is a 2,100-acre nature preserve dedicated to serve the public as a natural buffer from urban development and a place for countless activities – from hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding, to picnics, kayaking and more. John will present the history and importance of this regional green space from formation to a future vision. Discussion will be encouraged on how to best implement green preservation and coordination between jurisdictions.



**CAROLINA  
THREAD TRAIL**



**- CATAWBA -**  
**LANDS CONSERVANCY**

LAND | WATER | FARMS | NATURE

# **FOSTERING A LEGACY OF CONSERVATION, CONNECTIVITY, AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

**Bret Baronak, Project Director  
Carolina Thread Trail**

Presentation to Fort Mill and Tega Cay – September 24, 2020



# TWO ORGANIZATIONS, ONE GOAL: SAVING LAND AND CONNECTING LIVES TO NATURE



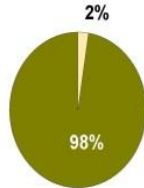


# OUR DISAPPEARING GREEN SPACE



1976

Footprint: 0.08 acres per person

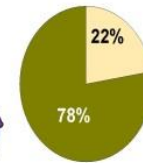


- Charlotte
- Developed
- Natural/ Rural
- Water
- Protected open space

89,600 acres

2006

Conversion Rate: 94 acres per day  
Footprint: 0.41 acres per person

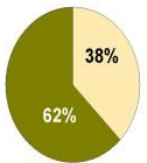


- Charlotte
- Developed
- Natural/ Rural
- Water
- Protected open space

985,600 acres

2030

Conversion Rate: 69 acres per day  
Footprint: 0.48 acres per person



- Charlotte
- Developed
- Natural/ Rural
- Water
- Protected open space

1,702,400 acres

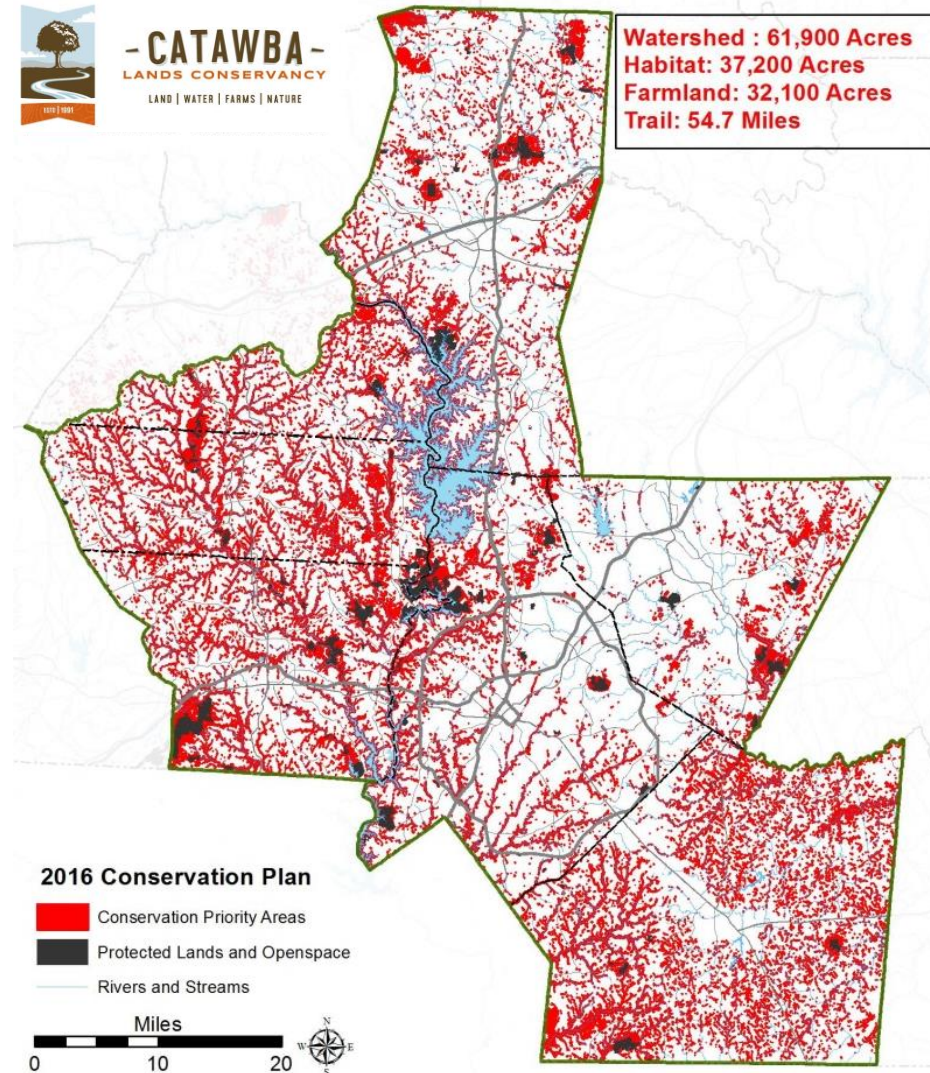


# LAND PROTECTION PROCESS

# LAND ACQUISITION

Conservation Easement

Fee Simple Acquisition



# LAND STEWARDSHIP



Monitor



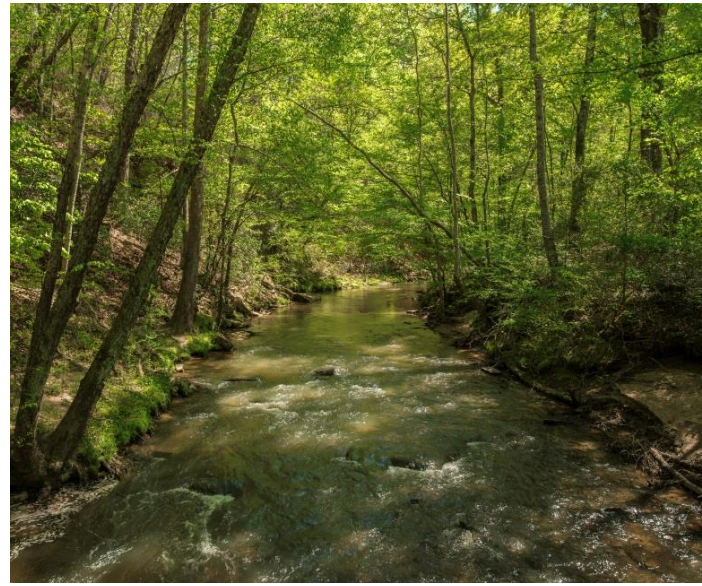
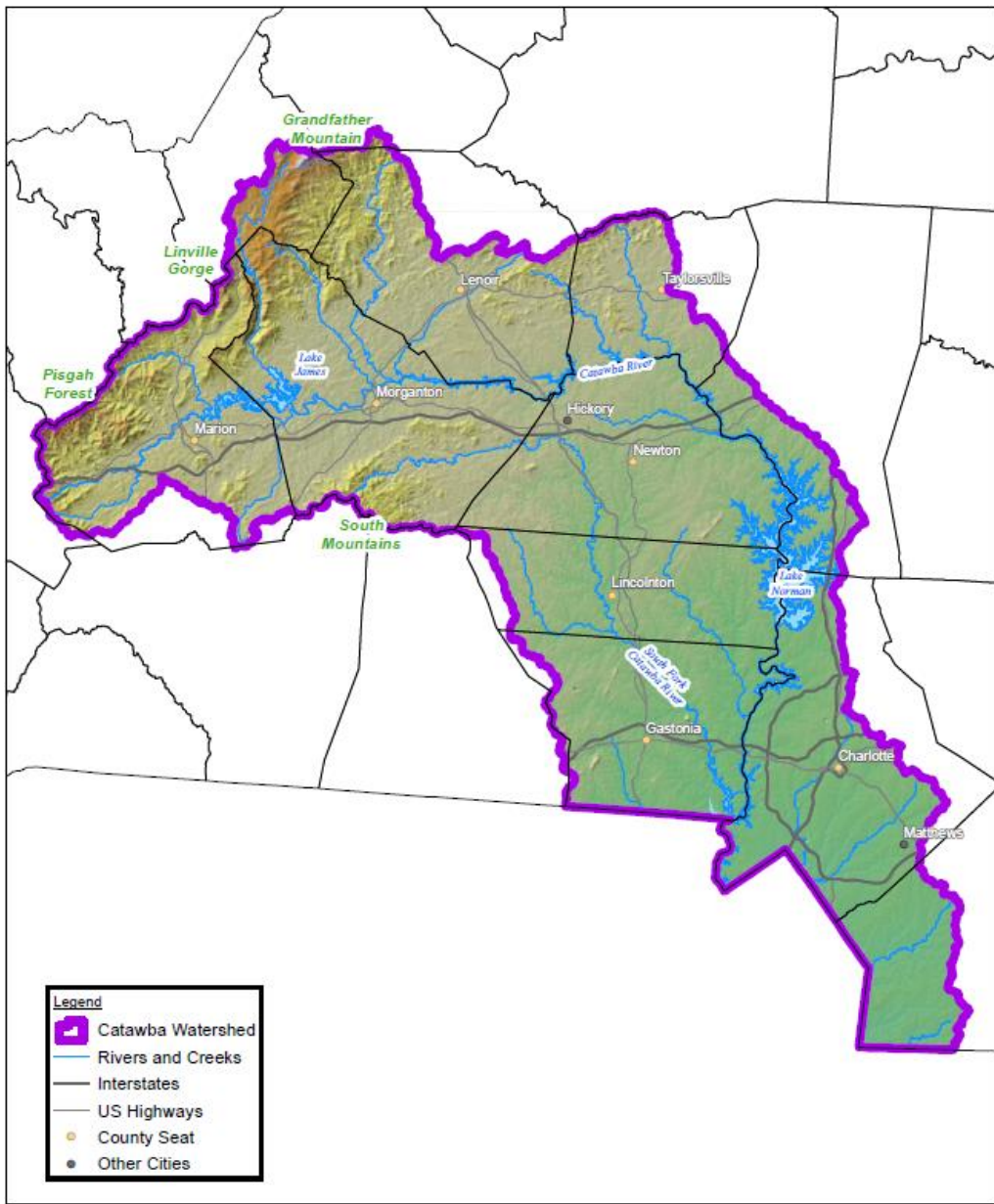
Maintain



Restore



**CLEAN WATER**





# WILDLIFE HABITAT





# PLANTS, ANIMALS, AND INSECTS





# LOCAL FARMS

# FARMLAND PRESERVATION







# CONNECTION TO NATURE CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL

Girl Scouts' Dale Earnhardt Environmental Leadership Campus at Oak Springs | Statesville, NC

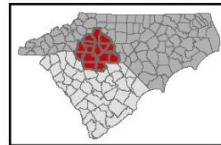
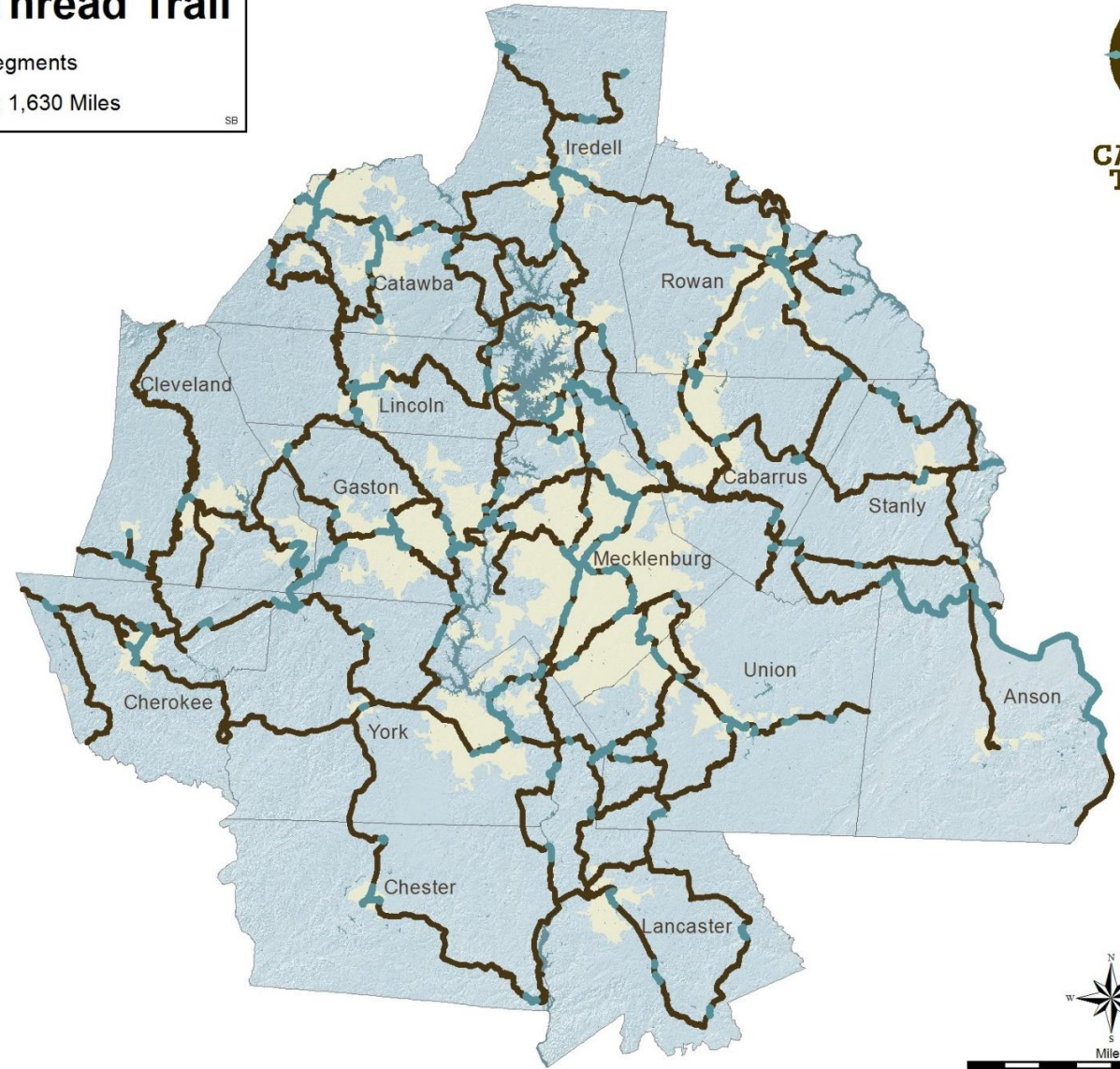
# THREAD TRAIL VISION

- ▶ 2 States
- ▶ 15 Counties
- ▶ 88 Municipalities
- ▶ 1,630 Planned Miles
- ▶ 300 Trails Open
  - ▶ Trails
  - ▶ Greenways
  - ▶ Blueways (paddling)
  - ▶ Sidewalk Connectors
  - ▶ Variety of Trail Surface Types

## Carolina Thread Trail

-  Completed Segments
-  Adopted Trail: 1,630 Miles

SB



CAROLINA  
THREAD  
TRAIL



0 15 30  
Miles

# TRAIL BENEFITS

NATURAL SELLING POINTS.

## HEALTH SAVINGS

## BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



## JOB CREATION

Trail construction over 15 years results in 2,700 new jobs during that period



## ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION



## INCREASED PROPERTY VALUE

4% increase in vicinity of trail, resulting in increased property tax revenue of \$17 million



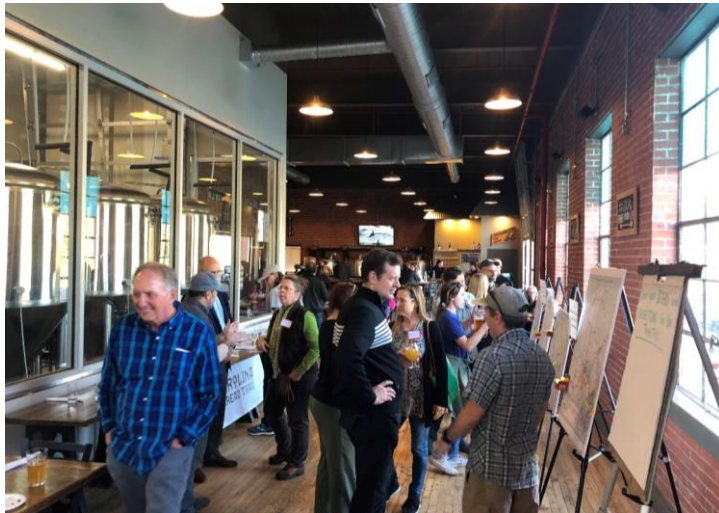
## INCREASED TAX REVENUE

## TRAIL USER AND TOURIST SPENDING

\$42 to \$84 million of increased spending, resulting in \$3 to \$6 million in incremental state and local tax revenue

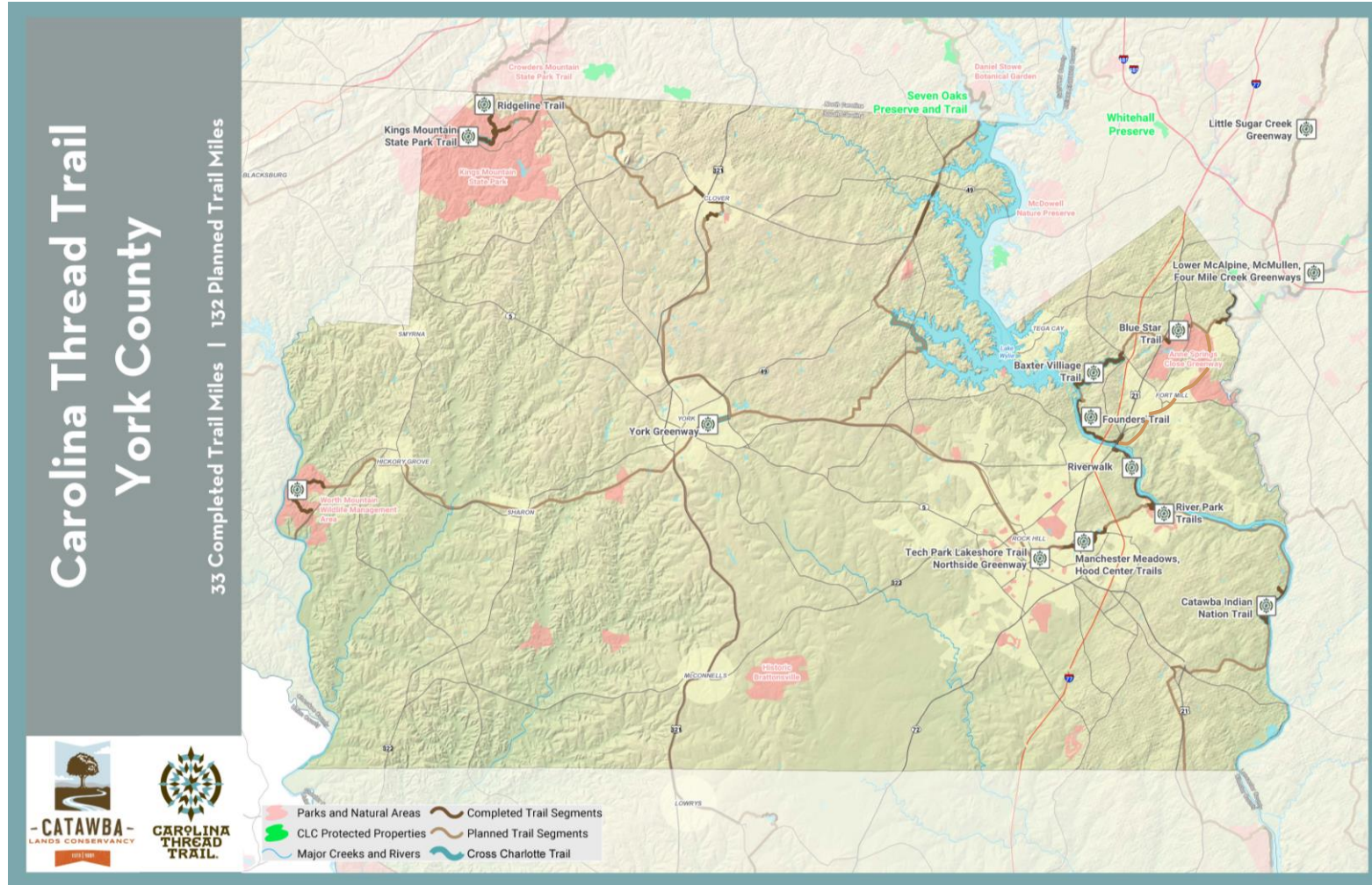


# THREAD TRAIL'S ROLE - CATALYTIC



- ▶ Promote a regional vision of **connectivity**
- ▶ Facilitate **implementation** of master plans
- ▶ Facilitate **collaboration** among communities
- ▶ Provide technical **education** and **support** to partners
- ▶ Provide **grants** to acquire land, plan, and construct trails  
(Carolina Thread Trail Implementation Grant Program)
- ▶ Seek local, regional, state, and national **funds**
- ▶ Coordinate with CLC to create trail opportunities

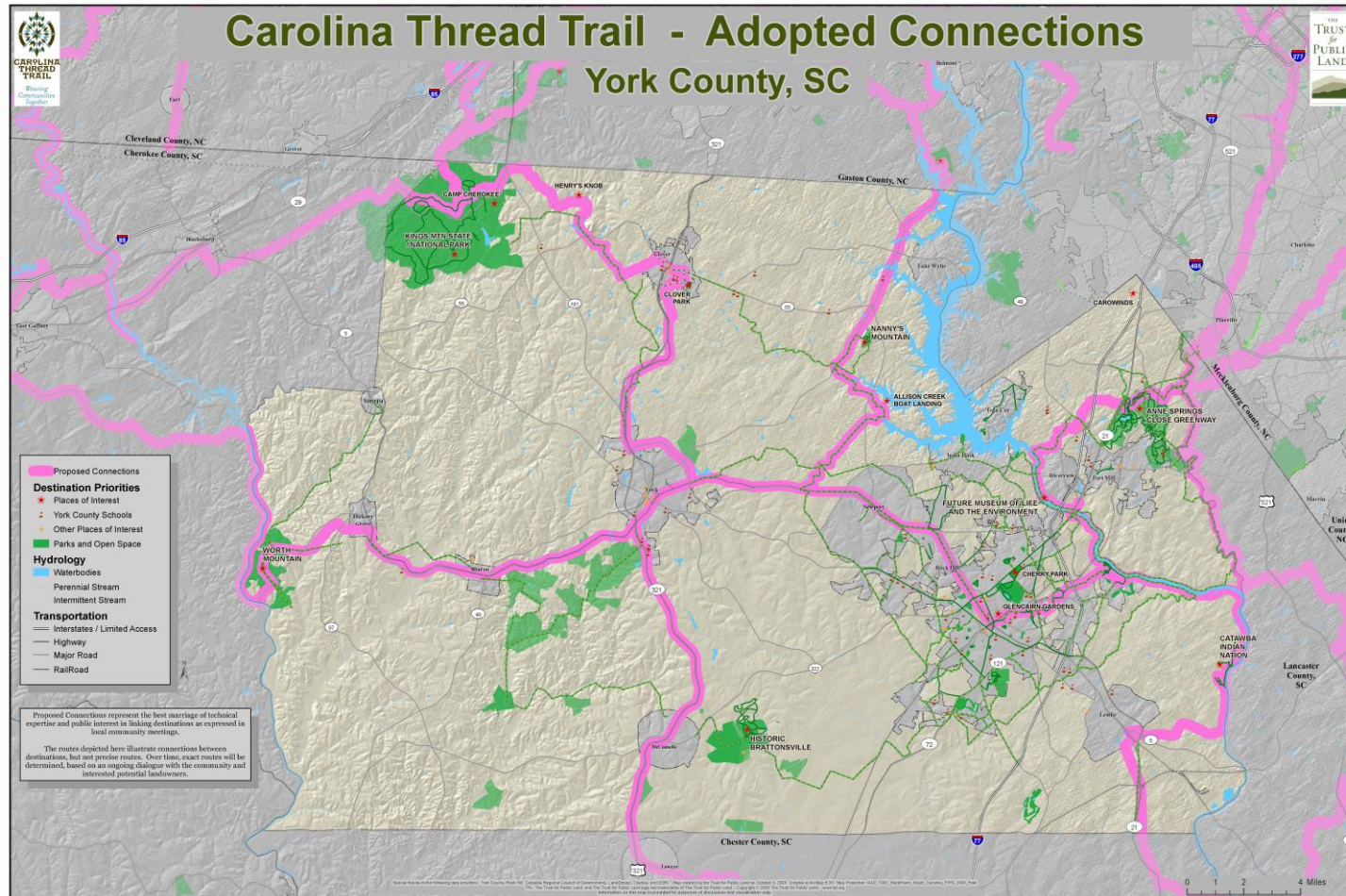
# COUNTY MASTER PLANS



- ▶ 15 counties
- ▶ Adopted into land development plans
- ▶ Local and community driven

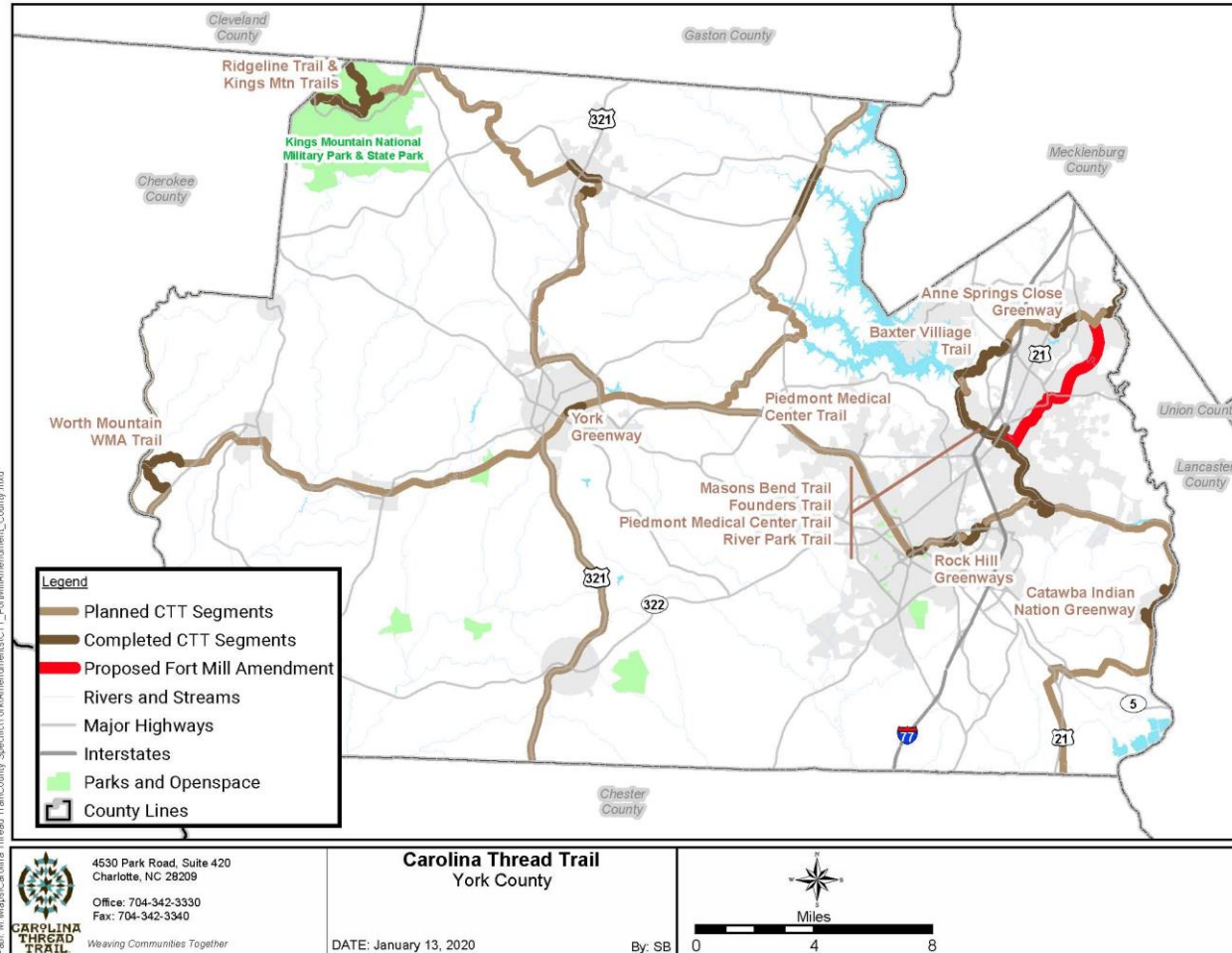


# COUNTY MASTER PLANS – YORK COUNTY



- ▶ 15 counties
- ▶ Adopted into land development plans
- ▶ Local and community driven

# COUNTY MASTER PLANS – YORK COUNTY



- ▶ Master Plan Amendment Process
- ▶ Locally Driven
- ▶ Strategic opportunity to link regional destinations
- ▶ ASCG to Downtown Fort Mill

# YORK COUNTY GAP ANALYSIS – PRIORITIES

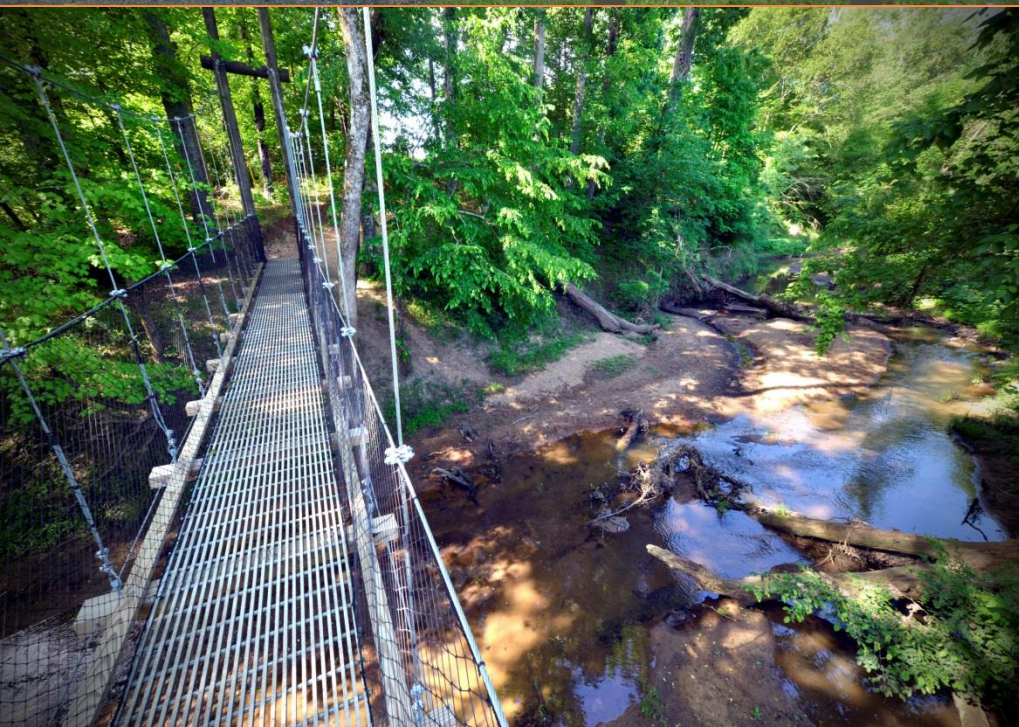


- ▶ Identifying strategic corridors
- ▶ Build upon local momentum
- ▶ Add mileage to existing trail
- ▶ Partnerships and key stakeholders are critical

# NORTH-SOUTH SPINE — EXAMPLE OF PRIORITY CORRIDOR



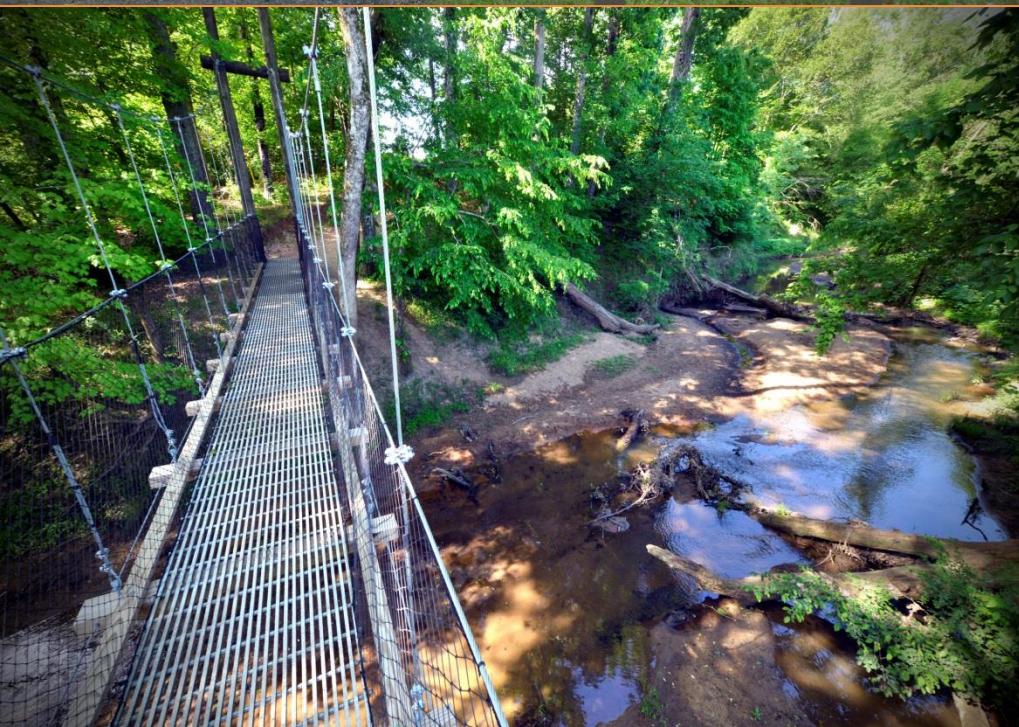
- ▶ 140 miles
- ▶ Multi-county
- ▶ Cross-state
- ▶ Statesville, NC → Great Falls, SC
- ▶ 5 Other “Priority Corridors” Within Region in Addition to North-South Spine
- ▶ Increase Continuous Mileage in Priority Corridors – Strategic Planning Moving Forward.



# CATALYTIC FUNDING

- Acquisition
- Corridor Planning
- Engineering and Design
- Construction (our favorite!!)

**Since it began - approx. \$6,500,000 awarded, which has helped to leverage other public and private funding for trails and land protection**



# CATALYTIC FUNDING

## Evaluation Factors:

- Location on priority corridor
  - Adds miles to existing segment
  - Collaboration and partnerships
  - Serves all members of the community
  - Project readiness
  - Public and private support
  - Trail maintenance
  - Project excellence
- **Focus on trail construction in priority corridors**
  - **Two application cycles per year**



# TRAIL HIGHLIGHTS YORK COUNTY AND BEYOND





# FOUNDERS TRAIL

York County

Rock Hill & Fort Mill, SC







# MASONS BEND TRAIL

York County

Fort Mill, SC

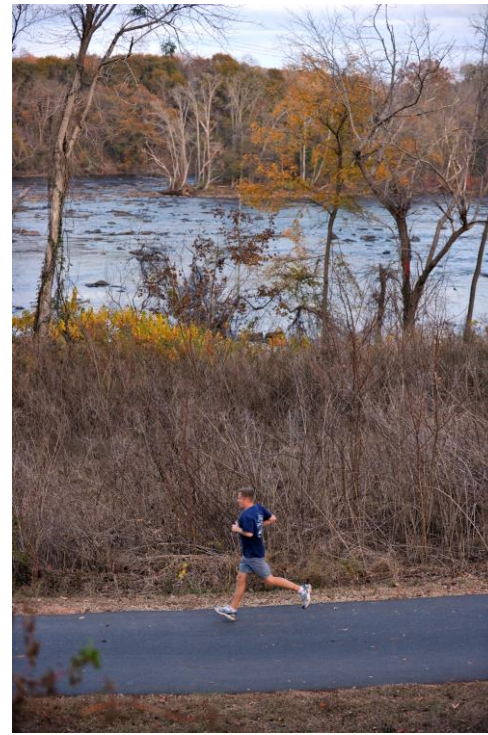




# BLUE STAR TRAIL AT ANNE SPRINGS CLOSE GREENWAY

York County  
Fort Mill, SC





# PIEDMONT MEDICAL CENTER TRAIL “RIVERWALK”

York County  
Rock Hill, SC

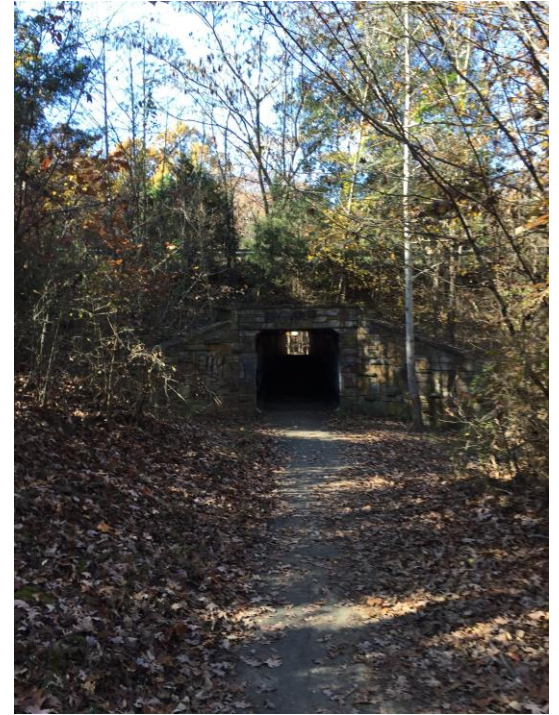




# CATAWBA INDIAN NATION GREENWAY

York County





# BAXTER VILLAGE TRAIL

York County





# KINGS MOUNTAIN GATEWAY TRAIL

Cleveland County

Kings Mountain, NC





# OVERMOUNTAIN VICTORY NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL: LAKE WHELCHER SEGMENT

Cherokee County  
Gaffney, SC





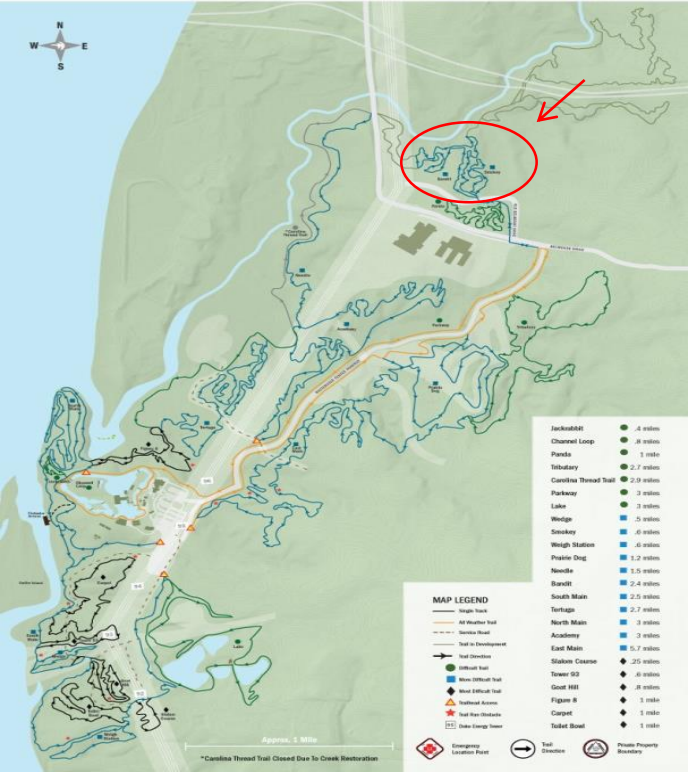
# **NORTH-SOUTH SPINE: LITTLE SUGAR CREEK GREENWAY HUNTINGTOWNE FARMS TO I-485**

**Mecklenburg County**

Charlotte, NC







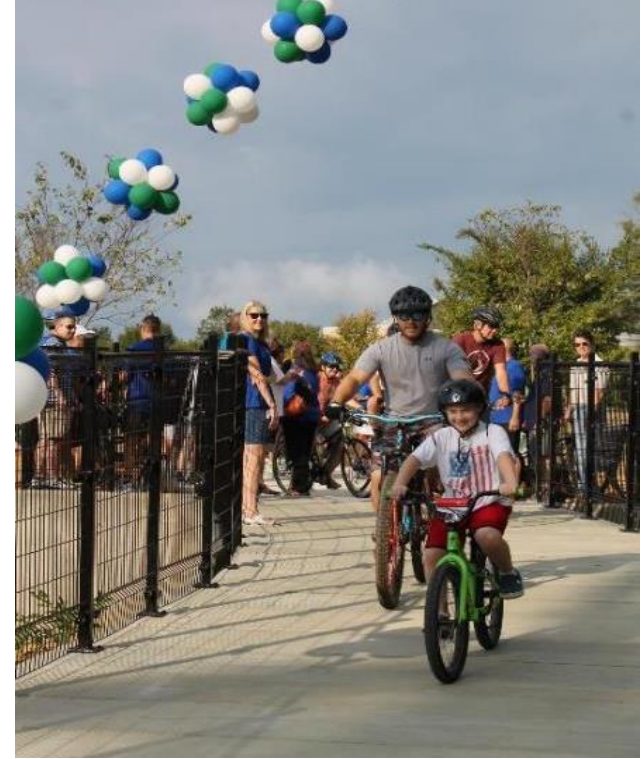
# LONG CREEK TRAIL EXTENSION

Mecklenburg County  
Charlotte, NC



U.S. NATIONAL  
WHITewater CENTER

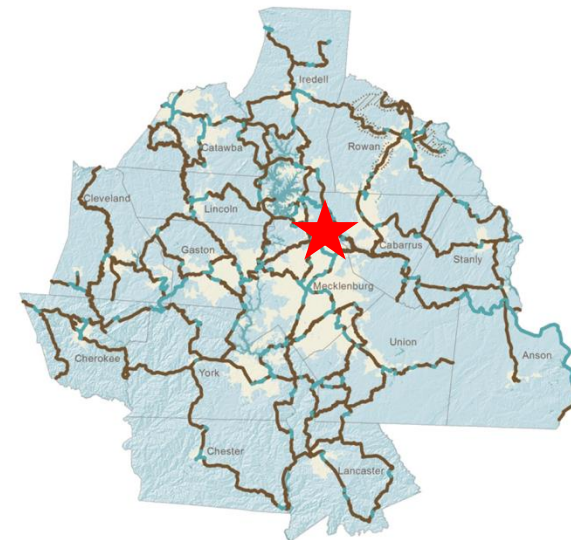




# ANTIQUITY GREENWAY

Mecklenburg County

Cornelius, NC





# RIVER LINK GREENWAY

Gaston County  
Cramerton, NC





# UPTOWN CYCLE TRACK

Mecklenburg County

Charlotte, NC





# **MOUNT HOLLY RIVERFRONT GREENWAY**

**Gaston County**  
Mount Holly, NC

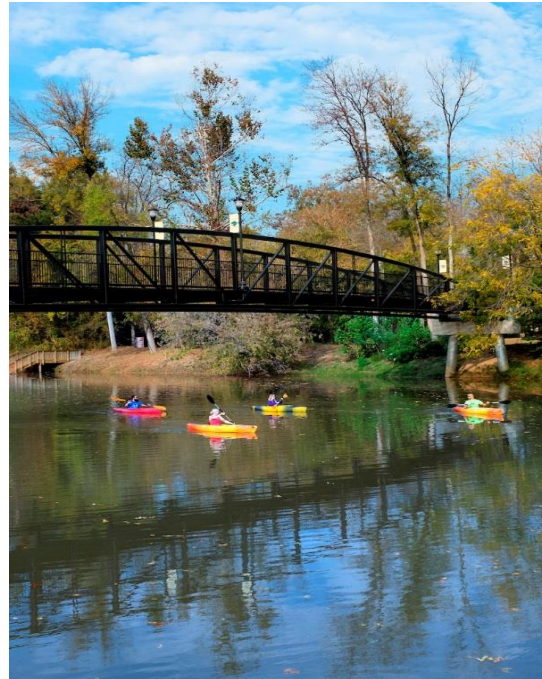


# BLUEWAYS

## Connecting Communities through Paddling

- ▶ Catawba River
- ▶ South Fork River

- ▶ Rocky River
- ▶ Pee Dee River





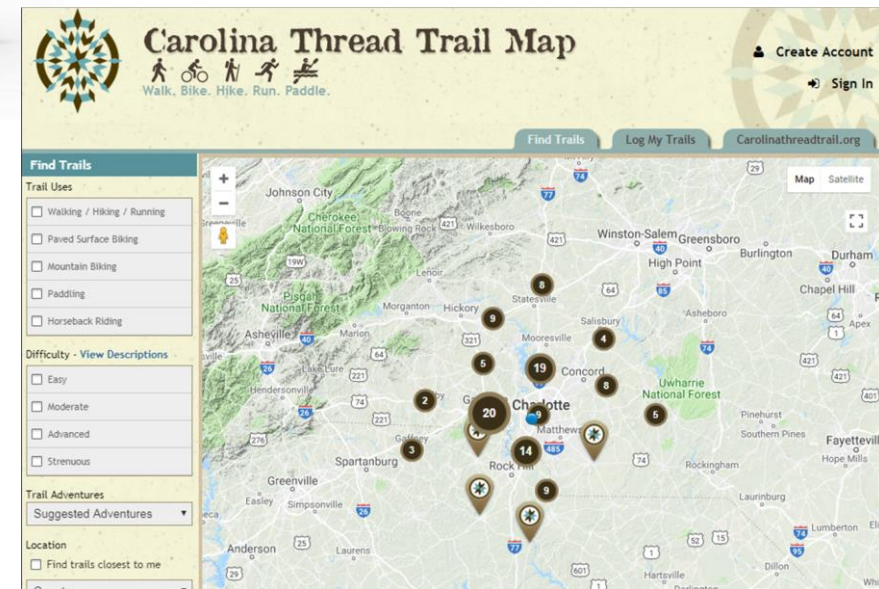
**GET INVOLVED**

# ONLINE MAP

- ▶ How do I find Thread Trails?
- ▶ Mobile friendly with real-time GPS
- ▶ Filter based on location, activity and difficulty



[WWW.CAROLINATHREADTRAILMAP.ORG](http://WWW.CAROLINATHREADTRAILMAP.ORG)





# OUTDOOR PROGRAMMING



Examples....showcasing trails throughout the CTT Region

- ▶ Bike-n-Brew with Blue Blaze Brewing
- ▶ Sunset Bike Ride
- ▶ City Bike Tour
- ▶ Sunset Bike Ride
- ▶ Nature Hike
- ▶ Fitness Walk
- ▶ South Fork River Paddle

# VOLUNTEER



## ► 500 Annual Volunteers

- Trail building
- Invasive species eradication
- Public/corporate workdays
- Outreach events



# TRAIL MASTERS

- ▶ 4-Day Certification Course
- ▶ Sustainable Natural Surface Trails
- ▶ 40 hrs of service annually for 3 years
- ▶ 98 Volunteer Leaders



# THREAD TRAIL AMBASSADORS

- ▶ 1-Day Training Session
- ▶ Advocate for Carolina Thread Trail
- ▶ Volunteer at Thread Trail outreach events
- ▶ Assist with outdoor programs



# OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

## *Virtual Trail Forum December 3, 2020*



# TRAILS ON TAP



- Gaston, Lincoln, Cleveland, and York Counties
- 45 attendees
- Natural Surface is the most preferred surface type
- Extend trails in Eastern Gaston County along South Fork River



- Union, Lancaster, Chester, York, and Cherokee Counties
- 45 attendees
- Natural Surface is the most preferred surface type
- Extend trails in Eastern York County along the Catawba River

# NATIONAL TRAILS DAY





# CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL PALE ALE



- ▶ Blue Blaze Brewing, Charlotte, NC
- ▶ 10% of profits donated to the Thread Trail



# CONNECT WITH US



[www.catawbalands.org](http://www.catawbalands.org)  
[www.carolinathreadtrail.org](http://www.carolinathreadtrail.org)



CatawbaLands  
CarolinaThreadTrail

#catawbalands  
#carolinathreadtrail



@CatawbaLands  
@ThreadTrail



**THANK YOU!**



**CAROLINA  
THREAD  
TRAIL**

**Bret Baronak**

**Carolina Thread Trail, Project  
Director**

**[bret@carolinathreadtrail.org](mailto:bret@carolinathreadtrail.org)**

Bret Baronak, Project Director  
Carolina Thread Trail

Bret has been with the Carolina Thread Trail since 2016 and started as the Community Coordinator. In 2018 he moved into the role of Project Director. Bret's background has been largely focused in public sector land use and transportation planning. Throughout his career, he has specialized in bicycle and pedestrian planning. From 2006 to 2014, Bret served as the Bicycle, Greenways, and Pedestrian Coordinator in Palm Beach County, Florida, where he was responsible for planning, funding and elevating awareness for non-motorized transportation. While in Florida, he was active with the East Coast Greenway and served on the ECGA Trail Council. In late 2014, he moved to the Charlotte region and held the position of Senior Transportation Planner with the Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln MPO. Bret is a native of western Pennsylvania and a graduate of Penn State University. He is an avid road and mountain cyclist and also enjoys hiking, travel, and spending time with family in his PA hometown when he has the opportunity.

**John J. Gordon\_Short Bio**

A native of Clover, SC and graduate of Winthrop University with a degree in History and Philosophy, John J. Gordon has spent his professional years immersed in a variety of recreation minded organizations. John's organizational expertise is driven by more than 15 years of operational and leadership experience at some of the area's most respected recreation facilities including the U.S. National Whitewater Center and YMCA Camps Cherokee and Thunderbird. Since joining the Anne Springs Close Greenway as Executive Director in 2017, John has helped shepherd the organization through exponential growth in membership and visitors to the property, as well as operational improvements and continued development of Greenway summer camps, special events and other recreation programs. His focus for the organization is in continued achievement of its mission – to connect all people to nature through conservation, education and recreation. John lives in Fort Mill with his wife, Ally, and two young children, Aila and Lee.