



Lowe's announces \$250,000 grant to Carolina Thread Trail

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Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation announced Thursday a \$250,000 grant to the Carolina Thread Trail to support the development of Iredell County's section of the regional trail network.

The grant will support land acquisition and trail construction for segments identified by the citizens and leadership of Iredell as part of the county's Greenway Master Plan.

The Thread is a network of trails, greenways, blueways and conservation corridors linking 15 counties in North and South Carolina. It is made up of segments that are designed, built and owned by the counties and towns through which it is woven. The Thread offers a multitude of opportunities for biking, hiking, fishing, paddling and connecting with nature.

Mike Mabry, Lowe's executive vice president, announced the grant at a public meeting in Mooresville Thursday, stating, "Lowe's understands the importance of conserving our natural resources and securing an outdoor environment for present and future generations to use and enjoy. This \$250,000 grant is a part of Lowe's long-standing commitment to improving the communities where our employees and customers live and work and to supporting the causes important to them."

Iredell's Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan is being developed under the leadership of a steering committee comprised of county stakeholders and citizens. The plan will identify regionally significant trail corridors for through the county and how they might connect to the broader network. The master planning process will ultimately lead to a publically adopted, countywide strategy for advancing trails.

"We are deeply grateful to the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation for their support of a project that delivers so much benefit to so many people," said Ann Browning, Carolina Thread Trail Project Director. "It is inspiring to see the community engagement in these early days of the planning process for the creation of Iredell's Master Plan."

Since its inception in 1957, Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation has helped communities nationwide through employee volunteerism and financial contributions. In 2009, Lowe's and the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation together contributed more than \$30 million to support community and education projects in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

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