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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Carolina Thread Trail Grant Awards Pass \$1 Million Mark

Charlotte, NC – The Carolina Thread Trail Governing Board has awarded \$60,000 to Lancaster County, pushing community grant awards for trail development over \$1 million. Planning and implementation grants awarded by the Carolina Thread Trail (The Thread) provide catalytic funding to support communities in the 15-county region as they develop trails for their citizens to use and enjoy.

The planning grant awarded to Lancaster County will support the county and its municipalities as they create a county-wide greenway master plan. Local leadership will oversee an inclusive community engagement process to identify routes for the county's trail network. Lancaster's master plan will ultimately connect with the larger Carolina Thread Trail regional system.

"This is a monumental moment for the Carolina Thread Trail," said Mike Mabry, member of the Governing Board and Grants Committee Chair. "The Thread funding model is built on our ability to leverage private funding to attract public capital, which would not be possible without private capital donations. These catalytic grants give our communities critical financial support as they plan and implement trail systems."

Since the project's launch in November of 2007, The Thread has awarded the following in catalytic grant support to local communities:

Awards to Date

- \$651,523 in planning grants to twelve counties for the development of their master plans
- \$352,684 in implementation grants to two counties to support segment design, land acquisition or trail construction
- \$1,004,207 awarded to local communities to advance The Thread

Additional Awards to be Announced in September, 2010

Seven counties have completed master plans, making them eligible for implementation grants in this year's cycle. Eighteen projects have been submitted and are currently under review by The Thread's Grants Committee. The Governing Board will announce the 2010 grant awards in September.

For more information on Carolina Thread Trail grant opportunities, visit www.carolinathreadtrail.org or call 704-376-2556.

About The Carolina Thread Trail

The Carolina Thread Trail (The Thread) is a 15-county, two state initiative designed to inspire and facilitate the creation of a regional network of trails, blueways, and conservation corridors that is growing together to link more than 2.3 million citizens. With technical resources and catalytic funding from The Thread, local communities plan and implement their portions of this green interstate system. Catawba Lands Conservancy is the lead agency for The Thread, working in partnership with Foundation For The Carolinas and many other local partners.

About Catawba Lands Conservancy

Catawba Lands Conservancy is dedicated to saving land and connecting lives to nature. The Conservancy protects more than 8,000 acres in Catawba, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg and Union counties and is one of 24 land trusts serving North Carolina. Catawba Lands Conservancy is the lead agency for the Carolina Thread Trail, an initiative that links more than two million citizens with hundreds of miles of trails that wind through fifteen counties in North and South Carolina.

Additional Resources:

- www.catawbalands.org
- www.carolinathreadtrail.org

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