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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Carolina Thread Trail Receives \$58,000 Advantage Carolina Grant Award

Charlotte, N.C. – The Carolina Thread Trail (The Thread) has been awarded a \$58,000 grant by Advantage Carolina to fund a volunteer-training and trail construction project along the Rocky River in Harrisburg, North Carolina.

The project will create a multi-use, 2.3-mile, natural surface trail in 2011. Located in Cabarrus County, this segment of The Thread is part of a priority corridor identified and supported by the community.

The project will train 16 citizen volunteers in various natural surface trail construction techniques, as well as in how to manage volunteer trail construction teams. Volunteers selected through an application process will be taught by a professional trail educator. Graduates of the training program will be empowered to lead trail construction projects to advance The Thread in communities throughout the region.

“We’re extremely grateful to Advantage Carolina for this grant and for recognizing the value this project adds to our regional trail building initiative,” said Alex Rankin, President of Concord Engineering & Surveying and member of The Thread’s Governing Board. “In a time of reduced local funding and staffing, volunteers will provide the enthusiasm and ‘boots on the ground’ for turning trail concepts into miles of natural trail open for public enjoyment.”

Advantage Carolina’s generous support in 2009 funded the year-long planning process of developing Lincoln County’s master Thread Trail plan. The master plan was fully adopted by Lincoln County on November 16, 2009.

Since The Thread’s launch in 2007, eight of 15 counties have fully adopted countywide master plans encompassing 876 miles of planned trails. The project has transitioned from planning to building trails on a regional scale, with 67 miles now open for public use.

Please visit carolinathreadtrail.org to learn more about volunteer opportunities to help advance The Thread.

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.

About Advantage Carolina

The Advantage Carolina fund is designed to support the overall economic health of the Charlotte Region through support of initiatives in four key areas: economic development, regionalism, education and inner city development.

Additional Resources

- www.carolinathreadtrail.org
- www.catawbalands.org
- www.charlottechamber.com/advantage-carolina

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