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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 24, 2010

Carolina Thread Trail Awards \$563,795 to Communities

Charlotte, NC – The Carolina Thread Trail Governing Board has approved trail grant applications from 13 community projects along The Thread totaling \$563,795. Trail implementation grants are reviewed by the Board on an annual basis to provide catalytic funding to communities to assist with trail corridor design, land acquisition and construction.

"Seven counties have created trail master plans and lots of local momentum," said Ruth Shaw, chair of the Carolina Thread Trail Governing Board. "This round of funding will help put trail miles on the ground -- a great example of thinking regionally and acting locally."

The recipients of Carolina Thread Trail implementation grants in 2010 are:

- Kannapolis (Cabarrus)
- Chester County
- Kings Mountain Gateway Trail (Cleveland)
- City of Kings Mountain (Cleveland)
- Shelby (Cleveland)
- Nation Ford Land Trust (York)
- Cramerton (Gaston)
- Belmont (Gaston)
- Bessemer City (Gaston)
- Lincoln (Lincoln)
- Mecklenburg County
- Catawba Lands Conservancy, Long Creek and Newcombe Preserve (Mecklenburg)

Grants will contribute to approximately 43 miles of trails that weave throughout the Carolina Thread Trail 15-county system. These projects will take place in Cabarrus, Chester, Cleveland, York, Gaston, Lincoln and Mecklenburg counties. All counties that were eligible by virtue of having completed Carolina Thread Trail master plans at the time of application are represented.

Grant recipients include local governments, two land trusts and two local trail non-profits. To date, The Thread has awarded more than \$1.5 million in catalytic grants to Carolina Thread Trail communities and trail projects.

Letters of interest for the 2011 implementation grants cycle will be accepted starting in December 2010. For more information, visit carolinathreadtrail.org.

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.carolinathreadtrail.org
- www.catawbalands.org

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