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LOWE'S ANNOUNCES A \$250,000 GRANT TO THE CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL
Retailer Donates Funds for Design, Land Acquisition or Trail Construction in Iredell County

[**MOORESVILLE, N.C.**] – 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.

For more information, about The Thread Trail, visit www.carolinathreadtrail.org. To learn more about Lowe's involvement in local communities, visit lowes.com/socialresponsibility.

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 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 The Foundation For The Carolinas, and many local partners and land trusts.

ABOUT LOWE'S

Lowe's is a proud supporter of Habitat for Humanity International, American Red Cross, SkillsUSA/Skills Canada, and The Nature Conservancy, in addition to numerous non-profit organizations and programs that help communities in North America. 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. Lowe's also encourages volunteerism through the Lowe's Heroes program, a company-wide employee volunteer initiative. Lowe's is a FORTUNE® 50 company with fiscal year 2009 sales of \$47.2 billion and has more than 1,700 stores in the United States, Canada and Mexico. For more information, visit Lowe.com/community.

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