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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 23, 2010

## **Carolina Thread Trail Seeks Public Input at May 6 Open House**

McAdenville, N.C. – The Carolina Thread Trail, in partnership with Connect Gaston, Inc., will host a public open house:

**When:** Thursday, May 6, 4:30 – 7:00 p.m.

**Where:** Pharr YMCA, 208 Main Street, McAdenville

**What:** The public is invited to drop by during the open house to provide input on a proposed greenway corridor along the South Fork Catawba River from Spencer Mountain to south of Cramerton. The trail will be part of the Carolina Thread Trail (The Thread), a regional network of greenways and trails linking 15 counties in North Carolina and South Carolina.

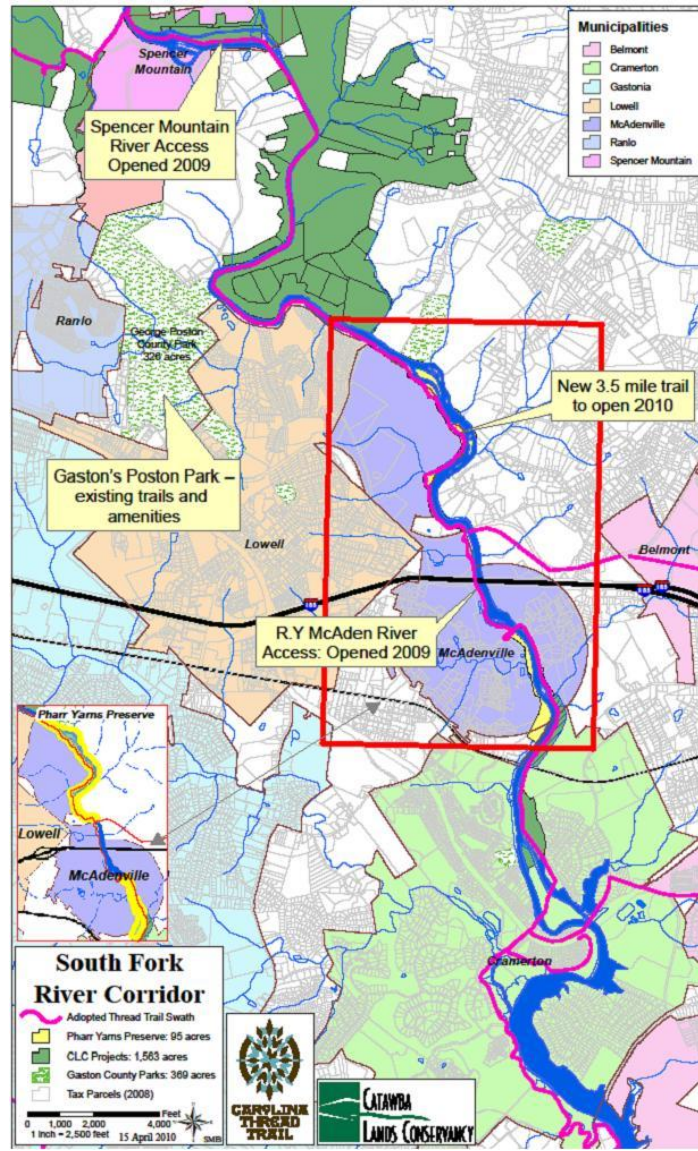
In early 2009, the Carolina Thread Trail master plan was formally adopted by Gaston County, as well as multiple municipalities within the county. The plan outlines a framework for trail system development within the county and includes a map of adopted routes. The plan shows the intended route with a quarter mile buffer, recognizing that communities and landowners will determine the exact location of trails during the design phase of development.

In September 2009, Connect Gaston, Inc. was awarded a grant from the Carolina Thread Trail to complete a corridor design. The design will outline the conceptual corridor alignment within a 30 foot swath, as well as identify parking locations and public access points.

Gaston's master plan identified the South Fork Corridor as a priority segment for near term trail construction. The Corridor includes the 95-acre Pharr Yarns Preserve, made

possible through a recent land gift from the Carstarphen family. Fueled by energetic local leadership and a Carolina Thread Trail implementation grant, an initial 3.5 miles of natural surface trail will be constructed along the river this summer by local volunteers. Ultimately, The Thread's South Fork Corridor will offer 9.5 miles of multi-use trails for hiking and paddling.

For those who are unable to attend the open house, but would like to discuss the planning process, contact Randi Gates, Community Coordinator for the Carolina Thread Trail: 704-376-2556 ext. 217 or randi@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 will grow together over time linking more than 2.3 million citizens. With technical resources and catalytic funding from The Thread, local communities will 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.*

### **About Catawba Lands Conservancy**

*Catawba Lands Conservancy is a regional land trust that permanently protects land, water and wildlife habitat to enhance your quality of life. 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 will link 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](http://www.carolinathreadtrail.org)
- [www.catawbalands.org](http://www.catawbalands.org)

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