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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Union County to Host Open Houses Seeking Public Input on Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan

Monroe, N.C. – Union County is hosting a series of public open houses this January and February to solicit input from residents about proposed routes for the Carolina Thread Trail (The Thread). The Thread is a regional network of trails, greenways, blueways and conservation corridors linking 15 counties in North and South Carolina. It offers opportunities for walking, biking, hiking, paddling and connecting with nature.

The Thread trail network is designed, built and owned by the counties and municipalities through which it is woven. Citizen participation is vital to the successful development of a final plan for areas served by the trail system, as well as the character, surface types and intended uses for the trails.

Starting on January 25, the public is invited to attend one of the following public open houses:

Weddington – Tuesday, January 25, 6 - 7 pm

Weddington High School (main entrance)
4901 Monroe Weddington Road

Monroe – Wednesday, February 2, 6 - 8 pm

Monroe Aquatic & Fitness Center, 2325 Hanover Drive
<http://www.monroeaquaticsandfitnesscenter.com/>

Waxhaw – Friday, February 4, 6 – 8 pm

Waxhaw First Friday at the Women's Club, 200 E. South Main Street
<http://waxhawwomansclub.org/>

Indian Trail – Saturday, February 5, 10 am – 1 pm

Extreme Ice Center, 4705 Indian Trail - Fairview Road
<http://www.xicenter.com/>

Open houses are structured so that residents may drop in at their convenience to learn more about The Thread and to provide input on proposed draft trail routes. Local representatives from the Union County Steering Committee and a representative from The Thread will be available to answer questions, share information about the regional scope of the project, and to discuss how to best serve the needs and wishes of community members in Union County. Union County kicked off its planning process for The Thread in July 2010.

For more information, please 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 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 Catawba Lands Conservancy

Catawba Lands Conservancy is dedicated to saving land and connecting lives to nature. The Conservancy protects more than 10,000 acres in Catawba, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg and Union counties and is one of 24 land trusts serving North Carolina. The organization focuses its efforts in four key areas: clean water, local farms, wildlife habitat and providing public access to nature. The Conservancy is supported in part with operating support by the Arts & Science Council of Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Inc. 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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