



CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL

carolinathreadtrail.org

THE CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL is a network of greenways and conserved corridors that links 15 counties in North and South Carolina and is a collaborative project of unprecedented scale. The Thread connects our region and places of interest, and conserves our most significant natural areas.

BACKGROUND

In 2005, Foundation For The Carolinas and more than 40 community and business leaders participated in a discovery process to identify our region's most pressing environmental need. The process produced the vision of the Carolina Thread Trail, along with a set of guiding principles for the project that launched in November 2007.

PROJECT PARTNERS

Catawba Lands Conservancy serves as the lead agency. Foundation For The Carolinas is The Thread's philanthropic partner. Other key partners include Duke Energy, the region's land trusts, and many local governments, businesses, agencies and community groups.

QUICK FACTS

- \$5,301,376 in grant awards to communities
- Eleven counties with adopted master plans identifying The Thread route
- Fourteen active corridors under development
- 80 miles of The Thread open and being enjoyed today
- Additional 64 miles of sidewalk connections

Capital Campaign:

- \$16.8 million in cash donations
- \$3.77 million in land donations
- \$17.8 million in public funding committed

*A project led by
Catawba Lands Conservancy*



2011 FACT SHEET

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following core principles guide The Thread as it advances throughout our region:

- Invitation to communities to participate
- Community self-determination of trail locations and character
- Connectivity through collaboration
- Bias toward action
- Respect for land; respect for the land owner

FUNDING MODEL

The Carolina Thread Trail is funded through a private capital campaign that will then be leveraged with local, state and federal funds. The total estimated goal for the Carolina Thread Trail is about \$150,000,000, including \$40,000,000 (land and cash) in private donations and \$110,000,000 in state, federal and local public funds.

BENEFITS

No other project in our region offers so much benefit to so many people, including:

- Alternative transportation
- Economic development
- Recreation
- Connectivity
- Health and wellness
- Water quality & quantity
- Conservation corridors
- Public access
- Wildlife habitat

CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL ROLE

The Thread organization plays three roles to support its community partners:

1. **Community Support:** The Thread provides a vision for the system of connected trails and conservation corridors throughout the region and facilitates community collaboration to develop county wide master plans. The Thread team actively partners with communities on priority corridors to develop trail miles.
2. **Funding:** The Thread provides funding by raising private capital that is then granted to communities for planning, design, land acquisition and construction of trail segments. It also provides assistance in attracting state and federal funding to the project.
3. **Technical Expertise:** The Thread builds implementation capacity by providing educational and technical resources, including mapping, to support communities as they build their trails.

