

CATAWBA LANDS CONSERVANCY TO PROTECT MORE OF REGION'S RARE HABITAT

Photo by Crystal Cockman

By Sean Bloom, CLC GIS Director and Biologist

This spring, in a small pocket of Gaston County, slime-covered creatures will emerge from the muck and mire. It may sound like a B-movie horror flick, but it's really nothing more than the adorable bog turtles (*Glyptemys muhlenbergii*), the smallest turtles

in North America. These turtles are listed as Threatened by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and since 2006, Catawba Lands Conservancy has worked with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC), the USFWS and a private landowner to protect the stream and bog these turtles call home.

The clean and cool water entering the bog is one of the many things that makes this area so inviting for the bog turtles. Normally, bog turtles are found high up in the Appalachian Mountains, but Gaston County is home to one of the rare Piedmont populations. During the last ice age, many plants and animals were forced south and out of the mountains to avoid the ice sheet. As the ice sheet and glaciers retreated, plants and animals began moving north and up into higher elevations. Although, in certain instances, when conditions were just right, plants and animals stayed in areas isolated from the rest of the population.

Such is the case with Gaston County's bog turtles. Here, cool groundwater flows from a spring through a forested canopy and into a wide and flat valley that is flanked by wooded slopes. As the small stream enters the valley it

slows and widens out across the valley floor, creating a sunny bog.

While the bog itself is open and not shaded, the forested slopes help shield the bog below from getting too warm in the long, hot Piedmont summers. "It is the cold groundwater flowing into the bog, keeping it cool, which is key for these bog turtles," says Jeff Hall, a Wildlife Diversity Biologist with the NCWRC. The shaded, wooded slopes and sunny, open bog create a Goldilocks environment; not too cold and not too hot. Just right for the little bog turtles!

This population is significant for the species' survival. According to Professor Shannon Pittman of Davidson College, "isolated populations, like this bog, can be important reservoirs of genetic diversity which can benefit the species at large."

Not only has the Conservancy protected the bog and surrounding land, but the stewardship team has also recently supervised a bog restoration with the USFWS to ensure the bog stays wet and mucky.



PART OF THE BOG CURRENTLY PROTECTED BY CLC

THE BOG IS IN TROUBLE

The bog that the Conservancy has worked so hard to protect over the last 10 years is now at risk. An adjoining property, which surrounds the headwaters for the bog, is for sale and slated to be cleared for development. By conserving the adjoining property, the Conservancy will protect the stream and bog as well as the trees which provide the shade that makes the clear, cool water an ideal habitat for the bog turtles.



HELP US SAVE THE BOG TURTLE'S HOME!

With your help, we can save the bog and protect the habitat of the smallest turtle in North America. Catawba Lands Conservancy must raise the remaining \$50,000 needed to purchase the adjoining property by May 1.

Every dollar donated helps us reach this goal and puts us one step closer to saving this fragile ecosystem. Please visit catawbalands.org/bog to make a donation towards the bog!



LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

2017 was another year of unprecedented growth in our region. In the midst of continued significant development, Catawba Lands Conservancy conserved seven properties totaling almost 447 acres of permanently protected land. These projects reflect all aspects of our strategic vision to protect land that impacts water quality, quality of life, wildlife habitat and local farms, and to advance the Carolina Thread Trail.

It is more clear than ever that we are a pivotal part of our region's growth story. There is still a tremendous opportunity to protect and conserve in our region. We are positioned to take advantage of that opportunity in the way that will impact the quality of life for everyone in this region, today and in the future. Completing new projects is a small part of our work; the real impact as an organization is how we manage our properties for public benefit.

In this issue, read about research that is being conducted at Redlair, one of our largest



conservation areas, where the effects of our region's explosive growth and development on our river basin and our water quality are being studied.

You will also

learn about a rare species of turtle and the work we are doing to ensure the survival of a bog they call home. Work like this would not be possible without donors like you who make it possible for us to protect these properties, so as always, I am grateful for all that you have done and continue to do to make it possible to carry out our mission to save land and connect lives to nature.

JONATHAN MANGELS
PARTNER, GREER WALKER

FIELD NOTES

#GIVINGTUESDAYCLT RAISES \$73,370 FOR CONSERVATION

Thank you to everyone who donated during #GivingTuesdayCLT! More than 230 local nonprofits raised \$7 million during SHARE Charlotte's local Giving Tuesday campaign from Nov. 14-28.

CLC's #GivingTuesdayCLT campaign focused on protecting and sustaining our drinking water, and raised more than \$73,000. A 2006 water supply study projected that with our region's continuing growth, the Catawba-Wateree River Basin, which sustains

nearly 2 million people with water, will no longer be able to meet our water needs by 2065. Thank you for helping us protect our region's water supply!

SHARE Charlotte created #GivingTuesdayCLT in 2014 as a local, annual campaign that leverages the global Giving Tuesday movement. It's an unprecedented collaboration of 230 nonprofits and 117 businesses working together for the greater good. SHARE's mission is to create a more engaged community by connecting individuals with local nonprofit organizations. This is CLC's third year participating in SHARE Charlotte's #GivingTuesday-CLT campaign.

CLC WELCOMES NEW PROGRAM COORDINATOR SENA MCCRORY



Sena McCrory joined the Catawba Lands Conservancy team in January 2018. As program coordinator, she plans and leads recreational

and educational events along our growing network of greenways and blueways, exposing the public to the wonders and the importance of connecting with nature. Sena is a Charlotte native who spent several years exploring other parts of the country and world before returning to her hometown.

Her college studies took her to Houston's Rice University where she majored in ecology and she served as a sustainable farm intern in Virginia, Maine, Pennsylvania and southern France. Before joining CLC, Sena worked as an afterschool teacher at Anne Springs Close Greenway in Fort Mill, S.C. In her free time, she enjoys cooking, gardening, hiking and daydreaming about her future farm. This position is supported by a grant from the Women's Impact Fund.



Gum Branch Preserve

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Tom Okel – *Executive Director*
Bret Baronak – *Carolina Thread Trail Community Coordinator*
Sean Bloom – *GIS Director and Biologist*
Robin Buckler – *Finance Director*
Saxby Chaplin – *Legal Counsel*
Matt Covington – *Land Acquisition Director*
Vanessa Covington – *Engagement and Volunteer Manager*
Alesia DiCosola – *Development Director*
Lynda Hunley – *Land Protection Legal Assistant*
Andy Kane – *Carolina Thread Trail Senior Director*
Sam Kirk – *Stewardship Associate*
Sena McCrory – *Program Coordinator*
Elizabeth Miller – *Executive Team Assistant*
Tammy Pfaff – *Land Protection Paralegal*
Caitlin Reilly – *Carolina Thread Trail Davidson Impact Fellow*
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CLC WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Catawba Lands Conservancy is pleased to welcome **Dean Jones**, **Tom Gates** and **Nathan Clarke** to its Board of Directors.



DEAN JONES

DEAN JONES

Dean is a 1982 graduate of Davidson College and has experience working in the commercial lending division of Wachovia in Winston-Salem. In 1986, he joined the Development Office at Davidson College, serving

as the Director of Development in conjunction with the College's \$150 million comprehensive campaign and the leadership gift phase of a subsequent \$250 million effort. Dean currently serves as the senior vice president of financial development and chief development officer at YMCA of Greater Charlotte. Dean and his wife, Jane, have three children: Tanner, Nate and Sarah Grace.



TOM GATES

TOM GATES

Tom is a founder and managing partner of Mirador Real Estate Advisors, a real estate advisory firm offering research-based real estate solutions to regional, national and international clients.

He is also the founder and principal attorney of the Law Offices of Tilman Thomas Gates PLLC, where he represents a select group of real estate development and corporate clients both in the United States and abroad. He earned his undergraduate and law degrees from Duke University and received a graduate degree in real estate at The Johns Hopkins University. Tom's community involvement includes two prior terms on the CLC board and work with Queens University, the Charlotte Bilingual Preschool and the Charlotte Preschool Partnership.

NATHAN CLARKE

Nathan is a partner with Dixon Hughes Goodman, leading its tax reform efforts. He has 19 years of public accounting experience, including 15 years with Big Four and national firms, with a deep focus on accounting method changes. Additionally, he is a national resource for tax issues and has spoken at AICPA conferences, state CPA societies and other continuing education events. His community involvement includes serving as commissioner for the Charlotte Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission. A Mountaineer, Nathan graduated from Appalachian State University with a bachelor's degree in accounting.



NATHAN CLARKE

THANK YOU!

CLC would like to congratulate Jonathan Mangels on his new position as Board Chair, and thank Jenny Ward for her service as previous board chair. Additional thanks to Walter Fisher, Jr., 2016 board chair, and Lat Purser III, who rolled off the board at the end of 2017.

STUDYING URBANIZATION'S EFFECT ON WATER

CLC participates in long-term study of Gaston County's Redlair Preserve

By Mary Newsom, UNCC Urban Institute



Charlotte's increasing urbanization is bound to cause changes in the region's water supply. With a grant from the Duke Energy Foundation, two

researchers from UNC Charlotte are about to explore exactly what sort of changes to expect. Their \$76,521 grant from the Duke Energy Water Resources Fund allows Professor Martha Cary Eppes and Assistant Professor David Vinson of UNC Charlotte's Geology and Earth Sciences Department to develop a series of monitoring sites at Redlair Preserve, particularly near its small creeks and watersheds.

The preserve encompasses 1,200 contiguous acres of permanently preserved land in Gaston County along the South Fork River, a prominent tributary of the Catawba River. Martha describes Redlair as a beautiful place with rolling hills, farmland and a typical deciduous forest full of maples, sweet gums, oaks, pines and bigleaf magnolias.

CLC is partnering with the North Carolina Plant Conservation Program, which owns the land, as well as the professors to establish the Catawba Basin Watershed Observatory through the project. Its larger aim is

to collect a large swath of baseline data from the small watersheds of the Catawba Basin and study the influence of invasive species' removal on water. David said Redlair contains highly intact watersheds, especially for the Charlotte region, which is so highly developed.

The goal of the watershed observatory will be to focus on the small tributaries to the South Fork. First, the researchers will study the big watershed and then focus on a few of the smaller tributaries. They'll install wells to measure the levels of groundwater and take samples from it to gauge chemical levels, as well as place surface water monitoring stations along the river to measure surface water flow. The team will also install six weather stations to detect the micro-climatology of Redlair from its valley bottom to its hilltops, tracking weather changes across the area. Martha said the team plans to measure soil moisture and soil temperature, too. Part of their grant money will pay for baseline data analysis, like one-time analyses of soil composition and sediment size.

Furthermore, the scientists propose to measure the accumulation of beryllium 10, a cosmogenic radionuclide, to discover how long the



Photo by Graham Smith

granite rocks at the site have been exposed to the surface of the earth and how quickly they are eroding into the water. Martha said people who are interested in sediment that runs off construction sites into water sources should be able to read their data to understand what the effects of such runoff might be.

In order to conduct hydrologic sampling, David said they will look at stream water levels and groundwater levels, while also catching precipitation. Additionally, they will collect samples at the watershed outlets where the smaller streams join the larger ones. Over the long term, they will monitor water temperature, pH levels to track acidity, nutrient pollution and baseline chemistry.

Martha said they want to give people a broader look at how urban development is affecting streams in Charlotte, and this project will provide researchers with a database to compare an urban-impacted stream to a more "natural" one in Gaston County. Although the team cannot control all variables simultaneously in a natural system to know with complete certainty what is affecting the water supply, the goal is to unravel as much of the complexity as possible

and identify what is truly important. The study will track how water systems change with time, factoring in variations in land use, and, when they are able to combine in several land sites at different stages of urbanization, how a city's sprawl affects water sources, too.

The researchers will also study invasive plants in Redlair, ones that are completely common in the Piedmont now but were not native to the Carolinas. Examples include privet, autumn olive or Japanese stiltgrass. Like kudzu, these plants were brought in for decoration or erosion control but tend to take over and outcompete native plants. Redlair is full of these types of plants, and Martha wants to know how removing them will influence the quality of water in the preserve.

The project will last for a year, with the sites opening up for study in mid-2018. They plan to open up their data to others as it becomes available through a public website. City managers and policymakers will be able to use the research for future urban planning.

reference: <http://plancharlotte.org/story/uncc-hydrogeological-research-gaston-county-redlair>



SAVING LAND

Land protection successes in 2017

With your support, CLC permanently protected seven new properties in 2017. Totaling 447 acres of land, these conserved areas are vital to our region's wildlife habitat and water quality. Three will be open to the public for outdoor recreation via future segments of the Carolina Thread Trail and the Mecklenburg County Greenway System. In 2017, CLC monitored 176 properties and now protects 15,761 acres of natural land across the Southern Piedmont of North Carolina.

PROTECTING FORESTED LANDS AND THE URBAN CANOPY

DOE CREEK CONSERVATION EASEMENT
93 ACRES / MECKLENBURG COUNTY
CONSERVATION VALUES: WILDLIFE HABITAT, CONNECTION TO NATURE

CLC and the City of Charlotte's Tree Canopy Preservation Program (TCPP) worked together to protect 93 acres of timbered and forested lands along Doe Creek, a tributary of Reedy Creek, in east Mecklenburg County near Reedy Creek Park and Nature Preserve.

The TCPP is part of the city's tree ordinance, which allows developers and property owners to make a payment into the fund when they are not able to save the required percentage of tree canopy on a specific property. The program is structured to help the City obtain its goal of achieving 50 percent tree canopy cover by 2050. Doe Creek complements the 48 acres along Reedy Creek that Mecklenburg County previously acquired to develop a greenway through the 880-acre park and nature preserve.

CONSERVING FLOODPLAINS AND WETLANDS

GUM BRANCH CONSERVATION EASEMENT ADDITION
13 ACRES / MECKLENBURG COUNTY
CONSERVATION VALUES: WILDLIFE HABITAT, CLEAN WATER, CONNECTION TO NATURE

The City of Charlotte donated a conservation easement on this forestland along Gum Branch Creek in northwest Mecklenburg County to CLC. The property is adjacent to a 45-acre property CLC conserved in 2016.



Gum Branch Preserve

Photo by Nancy Pierce

The two properties create an almost 58-acre conservation corridor along the creek, which will safeguard water quality and eventually host the Gum Branch Greenway. This latest addition protects approximately 2,020 feet of the creek along with floodplains and wetlands that are critical to filter runoff and flood waters.

ENSURING THE FUTURE OF PLANT SPECIES

SMAWLEY II CONSERVATION EASEMENT
24 ACRES / MECKLENBURG COUNTY
CONSERVATION VALUES: WILDLIFE HABITAT, CLEAN WATER, CONNECTION TO NATURE

CLC partnered with the City of Charlotte and landowners Tracy and Chris Smailey to permanently protect 24 acres of forest on the western side of Mountain Island Lake, the source of Charlotte's drinking water supply. This project expands CLC's first protected property, the Catawba Wildflower Glen, a significant natural area and home to many rare plant species, including Georgia aster and Georgia holly.

SUSTAINING WATER QUALITY FOR AQUATIC SPECIES

GEORGE CLARK CONSERVATION EASEMENT
125 ACRES / LINCOLN COUNTY
CONSERVATION VALUES: WILDLIFE HABITAT, CLEAN WATER, CONNECTION TO NATURE

George and Barbara Clark agreed to work with CLC to conserve their 125-acre property in eastern Lincoln County. Located along Anderson Creek and Killian Creek, the property provides watershed protection to maintain the water quality of both creeks. It also provides a natural habitat for wildlife which includes the Seagreen Darter, a species of fish listed as significantly rare by the NC Natural Heritage Program.

SAFEGUARDING AGRICULTURAL LAND

EAKER FARM CONSERVATION EASEMENT
93 ACRES / GASTON COUNTY
CONSERVATION VALUES: WILDLIFE HABITAT, CONNECTION TO NATURE

CLC preserved 93 acres of farmland in northwestern Gaston County known as Eaker Farm. The donated conservation easement protects agricultural land and 3,400 linear feet along the southern bank of Indian Creek.



Coley Preserve

Photo by Nancy Pierce

FROM FARMLAND TO NATURAL SANCTUARY

COLEY PRESERVE
75 ACRES / LINCOLN COUNTY
CONSERVATION VALUES: CLEAN WATER, WILDLIFE HABITAT, CONNECTION TO NATURE

CLC purchased this parcel of farm and forestland in a bargain sale from Bondi Coley using a grant from the North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund. The property is located in the River Bend Conservation Area, which protects 890 acres along 6.5 miles of the South Fork Catawba River. The preserve protects a high-quality, mesic mixed hardwood forest bluff, as well as a segment of wetlands.

The property is also located on a planned corridor of the Carolina Thread Trail. The preservation of the property protects important natural habitat for fish, wildlife and plants. The land will also provide watershed protection to shield and maintain the water quality of Pott Creek and the South Fork Catawba River.

CONNECTING HIKERS TO NATURE TRAILS

JACKSON BLACKJACK PRESERVE
23.5 ACRES / UNION COUNTY
CONSERVATION VALUES: WILDLIFE HABITAT, CONNECTION TO NATURE

David Simonini donated a 23.5-acre property to CLC which was permanently protected in partnership with the Nation Ford Land Trust in Fort Mill, SC. Located on South Potter Road in Union County, the property was identified as a significant natural area by the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program in 2012.

This preserve is home to a population of Carolina Prairie-trefoil, a species of concern according to the North Carolina Plant Conservation Program, as well as Heller's rabbit tobacco, which the NCNHP identifies as significantly rare. A future segment of the Carolina Thread Trail is planned for South Potter Road, and Jackson Blackjack Preserve will host a connector to the trail.



Volunteers helping plant the pollinator garden at Seven Oaks Preserve

STEWARDSHIP FOR THE FUTURE

Highlights of how we cared for the land
and waterways in 2017



RARE LOGGERHEAD SHRIKES FLYING NEAR GRACE FARM

Although Loggerhead shrikes have not been officially spotted at Grace Farm in Lincoln County, CLC staff suspects that they are around the farm.

Loggerhead shrikes have been on the decline since the 1960s due to habitat loss. Their most common habitat is open countryside with scattered shrubs and trees. The rare gray bird has a black mask and white flashes on its back wings, which stand out against its black tail and mostly black wings. The term “loggerhead” refers to the relatively large size of its head in relation to the rest of its body.

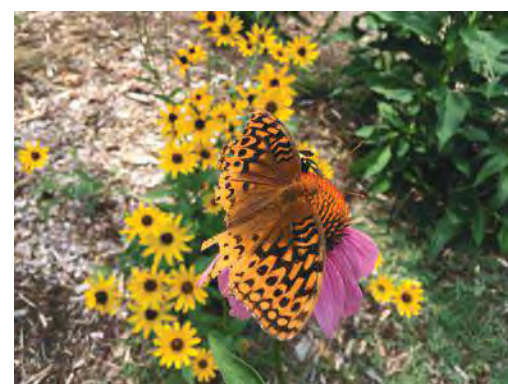
Nicknamed “the butcher bird” after its carnivorous tendencies, Loggerhead shrikes consume prey such as amphibians, insects, lizards, small mammals and other small birds. Because of its small size and weak talons, the bird often impales its prey on thorns or barbed-wire fences. CLC’s Biologist and GIS Director Sean Bloom was the first to become aware of the birds’ presence when he noticed small rodents and bugs that had been impaled on a fence.

Grace Farm sits on approximately 107 acres along the Upper South Fork River. The permanently protected, working cattle farm provides natural habitats for fish, wildlife and plants. The property also protects water quality through riparian buffers, wetlands and floodplains. The fields on the farm are managed with native warm season grasses.



POLLINATOR GARDEN WILL SOON BLOOM

During the summer of 2017, CLC’s stewardship team devised a plan to convert the grass along Seven Oaks Preserve’s trailhead in Belmont into a pollinator garden. After securing a grant from the Community Foundation of Gaston County, CLC and volunteers planted 340 plugs of native wildflowers and grasses. The garden now includes Purple Cone Flower, Black-eyed Susan, Blazing Star, Cardinal Flower, Joe-Pye Weed, Sweet Grass, Butterfly Weed and Broom-sedge. Visit the unique garden at the trailhead entrance at 6900 South New Hope Road in late spring and early summer and admire our handiwork!



CLAYS FOR CONSERVATION A SMASHING SUCCESS

Our second annual Clays for Conservation event in September 2017 was a major success! Held at the idyllic Fork Farm and Stables, CLC’s largest conserved property located at the confluence of the Rocky and Pee Dee rivers, the event raised more than \$38,000 for land conservation efforts. We were thrilled to welcome more than 120 participants for a day of sporting clays, wonderful food and conversation. During lunch, Tim Gestwicki, executive director of the NC Wildlife Federation, gave an inspirational talk on the importance of conservation for our state’s wildlife habitats. We hope you enjoyed the event as much as we did and look forward to this year’s event on Thursday, September 20.

PRESENTING SPONSOR:



LUNCH: Appian Textiles

GIFT SPONSORS: McKim and Creed
Sides Erosion Control Services





2017 BY THE NUMBERS



27

PROGRAM, OUTREACH AND
WORKDAY NONPROFIT PARTNERS



176 PROPERTIES MONITORED



48

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES



7,727

PEOPLE CONNECTED

THROUGH SPECIAL EVENTS INCLUDING THE
SOUTHERN SPRING HOME + GARDEN SHOW, POP-
UP PICNIC, NATIONAL TRAILS DAY, CLAYS FOR
CONSERVATION, TASTE FOR THE LAND, FALL INTO
THE THREAD AND TRAIL FORUM



7 NEW PERMANENTLY
PRESERVED PROPERTIES



447

TOTAL ACRES PROTECTED



407 VOLUNTEERS



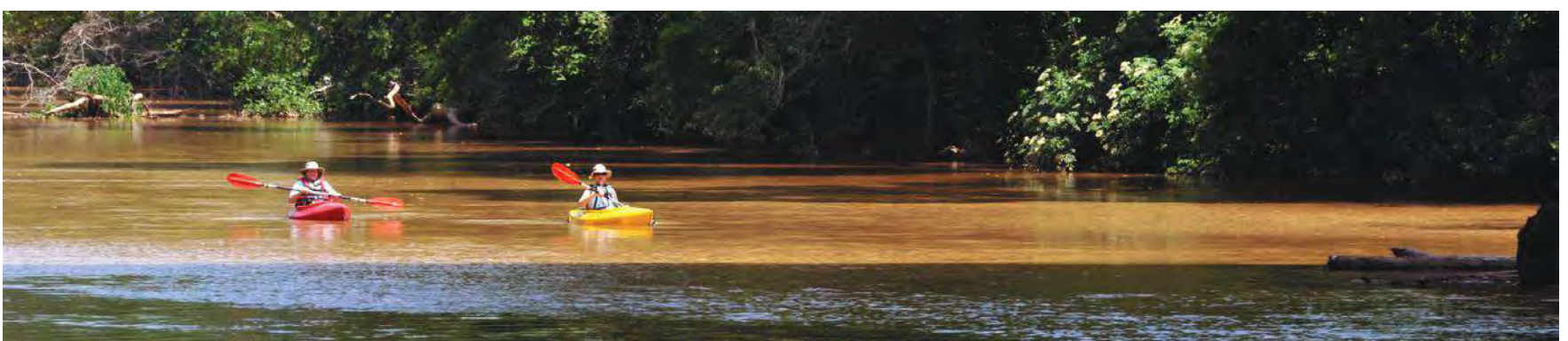
1,425

VOLUNTEER HOURS



920 PEOPLE ATTENDED PROGRAMS

1,251 MEMBERS





CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

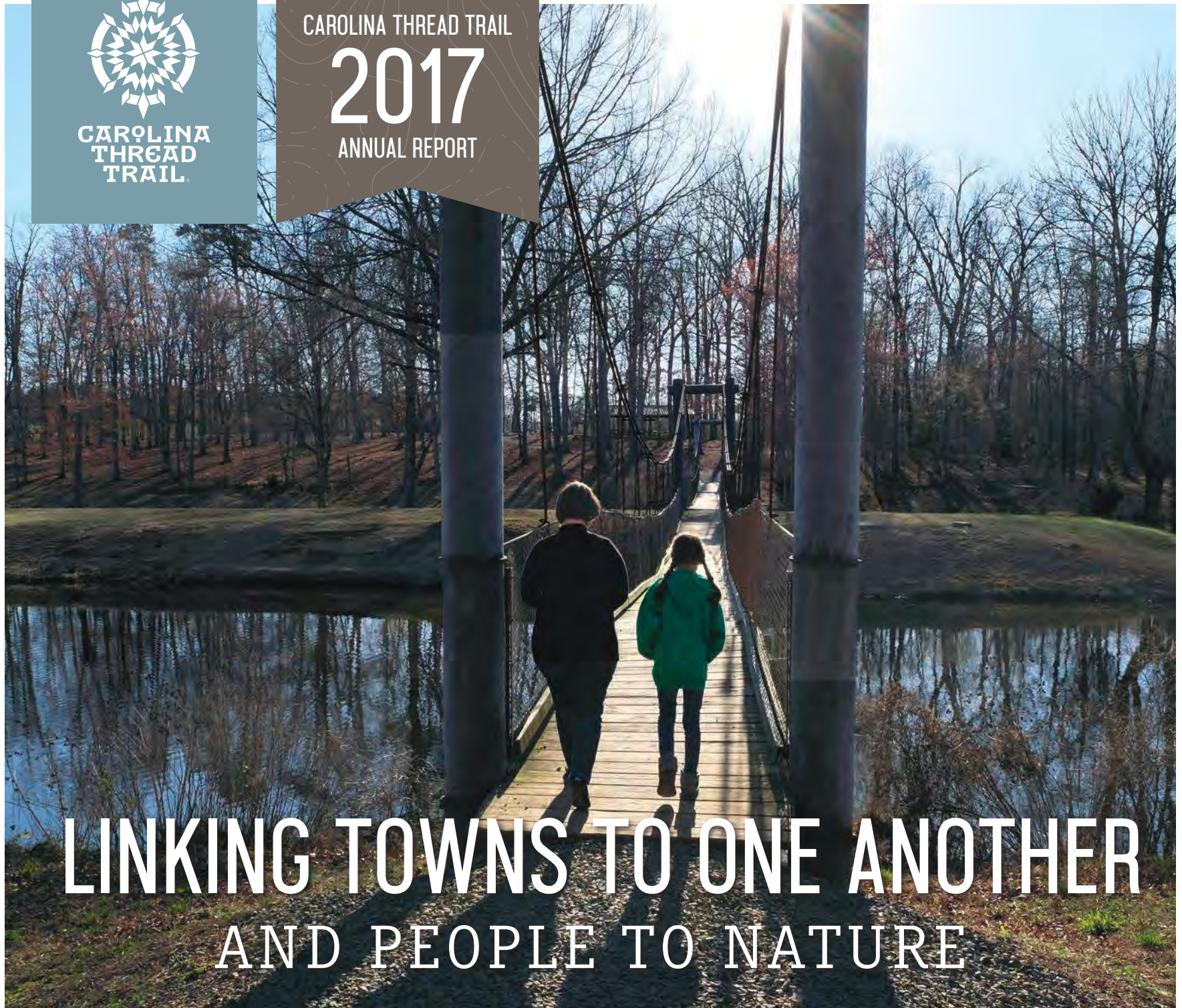


Photo by Nancy Pierce

LINKING TOWNS TO ONE ANOTHER AND PEOPLE TO NATURE

Stanly County's Falcon Trail is a connector in more ways than one

By Page Leggett

Don't be confused by the name "Falcon Trail." You're not likely to see a falcon on the 2.7-mile trail – part of the Carolina Thread Trail – that connects the Stanly County communities of Misenheimer and Richfield, and will eventually connect to New London.

When I asked Chris Lambert, executive director of the Stanly County Convention & Visitors Bureau if he'd ever seen a falcon on the trail, he said, "Boy, I wish I could tell you I had."

A few seconds later, he recalled he had seen one: Freddie the Falcon, a human dressed in Pfeiffer University's mascot costume. The trail, it seems, is named to honor Pfeiffer University and not the bird of prey.

And Pfeiffer students have benefitted tremendously from having easy access to an idyllic place to walk, run and mountain bike. There wasn't a connector between Pfeiffer's Merner Gymnasium and Richfield Park until this trail opened in September 2016. "Students can now walk to the park," said Lambert. "It's a great asset for them. And Pfeiffer faculty and administration can get out on the trail during their lunch break."

It's an easy-to-moderate hike – relaxed enough for kids and seniors to enjoy it. And they do. Lambert's kids, ages 5 and 7, especially love the bridges – a swinging one and a covered one. The swinging bridge leads to an island with a picnic table.

Dr. Mike Riemann, a retired Pfeiffer chemistry professor, may be the trail's biggest fan. He also

helped make it a reality. "I was retired and looking for things to do," he recalled. "I got involved ... on a committee that was working on a master plan for recreation. At the same time, the Carolina Thread Trail was promoting this idea of a trail that would link a number of towns in the region. I went to a Thread Trail forum and could see these three little towns were ideally suited to meet the Thread Trail's goals of weaving communities together."

Riemann would eventually become Misenheimer's mayor. He said his fellow mayors liked the idea of linking their towns via a trail system: "Nothing happens between communities without cooperation. All three of our communities now feel invested in this."

The former mayor is quick to point out that work isn't over yet. "We acquired seven miles of the nine we want," he said. "We've still got holes to fill in."

The process of assembling the land for the trail and making it a reality wasn't easy. During the construction of the first section, the area had heavy rainfall – the kind it hadn't seen in more than 50 years. "We got a year's worth of rain – 40 inches – in one month," Riemann said. "The people building the trail had to stop work and come back when the rain subsided."

Keeping the trail clean is a labor of love for Riemann and his wife, Theda. They walk it nearly every day and can't help but look out for rocks that could get in a cyclist's way or "root loops" hikers could trip on. They enjoy doing their part, but trail maintenance falls under the purview of the nonprofit

Friends of North Stanly Trails and Parks, a dedicated corps of volunteers working hard to keep the trail safe and looking its best.

For users, though, the trail is easy to access and use. Its surface area is covered with gravel, crushed stone, natural surface or mowed grass. There's no cost, and dogs are welcome, as long as they're leashed. The trail meanders through a heavily canopied area, so it's a picturesque place for a walk or bike ride.

You can also take in a little history while out on the trail, which offers lake and farmland views and access to a number of historic buildings. Gladstone Academy (once an 1890s schoolhouse) is among them.

Lambert marvels at the energy the trail has brought to the region: "You can have this place that's just grass for the longest time and then you make it into a trail, and bam! Suddenly, hundreds of people are using it."



Photo by Nancy Pierce



LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

It has only been 10 years since the beginning of the Carolina Thread Trail, but in that single decade it has grown dramatically and has been enthusiastically embraced by our region. Originally conceived as a region-wide network of trails totaling 500 miles, the Thread Trail's first step was to ask each community to vet the trail system within their jurisdiction. That process of local input more than tripled the system to 1,600 miles, highlighting the value local communities place on trails and greenways. Building on that demand, the Thread Trail, in conjunction with local communities, has been able to complete and make accessible for public use 260 miles of trails and 170 miles of blueways to date.

Today the positive effects of the trail on communities throughout our region is more visible than ever. What a long way we have come! And it is all due to our active and involved supporters – donors, members, community partners, more than 2000 volunteers who got their hands dirty putting miles on the ground,

AND especially, the seven original corporate funders who launched the effort.

We have big plans for the next five years which include completing 70 miles of the 143-mile North-South Spine and connecting at least five miles of trail in each of our 15 counties.

I hope you enjoy reading about the progress we've made in places like Stanly County, where the Falcon Trail connects the towns of Richfield and Meisenheimer. This is just one example of how, through your support, the Carolina Thread Trail is transforming communities.



ALEX RANKIN, III
CESI, PRESIDENT

FIELD NOTES

#GIVINGTUESDAYCLT RAISES \$53,528 FOR CTT

We're excited to share that the Giving Tuesday CLT campaign raised \$53,528 for the Carolina Thread Trail. This year's campaign focused on water. A water supply study done in 2006 projected that with our region's continuing growth, the Catawba-Wateree River Basin, which currently supplies nearly 2 million people with water, will soon be unable to support our demand for water. Trails help preserve corridors of



Buffalo Creek Preserve

natural land buffers along creeks and rivers, which in turn protect our water. The Carolina Thread Trail now includes 150 of the 744 miles of planned trails that run along waterways. Your support has provided access to outdoor recreation and helped protect our region's water supply. Thank you for helping us connect you to the outdoors!

CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL PALE ALE RETURNS IN CANS

Last summer, CTT partnered with Blue Blaze Brewing to create a refreshing beer, the Carolina Thread Trail Pale Ale. It's been so popular that the initial inventory has sold out and there has now been a second round of production!

Blue Blaze Brewing, located on the Irwin Creek and Stewart Creek greenway segments of the CTT, donates 10 percent of profits back to the Thread Trail. Aside from Blue Blaze Brewing, the beverage can also be found at locations throughout Charlotte. Check out our website for more places to buy it!

FUNDS RECEIVED FROM COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT OF GASTON COUNTY

The Community Foundation of Gaston County (CFGC) recently granted the Thread Trail \$100,000 to be used over the next three years to expand trails in Gaston County.

"The Community Foundation is proud to provide support to Catawba Lands Conservancy, and the continued expansion of the Carolina Thread Trail in Gaston County," Ernest Sumner, CFGC president, said. "Not only does the Carolina Thread Trail provide a way for people to get outside and exercise, but it connects our community and links together schools, parks and neighborhoods."



NEW TRAIL PROJECTS STARTING IN 2018

When you need to reconnect with natural greenery and travel to new locations, lace up your walking shoes and explore trails we are adding to the CTT in 2018.

HECTOR HENRY II GREENWAY – Concord, NC. A 2.4-mile natural surface trail located at The Mills at Rocky River development off of Rocky River Road. A parking area and trailhead are planned for early summer 2018. The trail is owned and maintained by the City of Concord.

SALISBURY GREENWAY – Salisbury, NC. A nearly 1-mile trail that will link Kelsey Scott Park and Jake Alexander Boulevard. This segment is part of the 5.5-mile Salisbury Greenway system.

CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL GOVERNING BOARD

Alex Rankin, III, – Board Chair – CESI, President

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CONTACT

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4530 Park Road
Suite 420
Charlotte, N.C. 28209
Info@carolinathreadtrail.org
704-376-2556
carolinathreadtrail.org



LITTLE SUGAR CREEK GREENWAY – Charlotte, NC. A 1.5-mile paved greenway addition connecting Tyvola Road to the existing greenway in Huntingtowne Farms.

MOUNTAIN ISLAND PARK TRAIL – Mount Holly, NC. A 1.5-mile natural surface trail extension along the Catawba River.

MOUNT HOLLY RIVERFRONT GREENWAY – Mount Holly, NC. A 1.7-mile paved trail linking Tuckaseegee Park to Mount Holly Municipal Complex near downtown.

LAKEWOOD GREENWAY – Cramerton, NC. A 1-mile paved greenway connecting Goat Island Park along the South Fork River to South Fork Village at Wilkinson Boulevard.

AVON/CATAWBA GREENWAY – Gastonia, NC. A half-mile paved greenway extending the existing greenway through Ferguson Park to Marietta Street.

STATESVILLE GREENWAY – Statesville, NC. A critical .25-mile paved greenway connecting the existing Fourth Creek and Gregory Creek sections of the trail creating a continuous 5-mile greenway.

CATAWBA RIVER TRAIL – Fort Mill, SC. Sponsored by Founders Federal Credit Union, a 2.3-mile natural surface trail addition along the Catawba River connecting the Piedmont Medical Center Riverwalk Trail to the Masons Bend section of the Catawba River Trail.

GROVER STREET PATHWAY – Shelby, NC. A 1.5-mile paved greenway connecting the First Broad River Trail to North Morgan Street.



Photo of Jeff Olson by Nancy Pierce

TRAIL FORUM KEYNOTE SPEAKER JEFF OLSON

TALKS OVERCOMING OBSTACLES AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE THREAD TRAIL

By Rob Glover

For more than 25 years, Jeff Olson has changed the way the world is built. During his career as architect and planner of open spaces and greenways, he has been involved in some of the most prestigious alternative transportation projects in the U.S. and beyond. Jeff currently serves as a certified architect at Alta Planning.

Serving as the New York State DOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager in the mid to late '90s, Jeff supported the creation of an incredible 1,000-mile state-wide bike route system, the Erie Canal Trail and Hudson River Greenway, and a 350-mile greenway system which connects people throughout New York City.

When the National Park Service needed to retool the facilities at Grand Canyon National Park, Jeff stepped in as a Team Leader. His influence in the position helped shape the way more than 7 million visitors traversed the park while maintaining the integrity of what makes the place so special.

His class on pedestrian and bicycle planning at the University at Albany is the first such course in the nation. As an author, his book *The Third Mode* is a prescription for building better communities through green design. And as a speaker, Jeff tours the country sharing the inspiration and information local communities need to develop their own greenway projects.

It was after such a talk, the keynote address during the Thread Trail's 10th Trail Forum on December 7, that we caught up with Jeff (or rather, he kindly slowed down for us). During our talk he offered his thoughts on inspiration, challenges and the tremendous progress of the Carolina Thread Trail.

What inspired you to get involved with greenway design and construction?

When Jeff was a teenager he wanted to take his girlfriend to the movies. Just shy of getting his driver's license, young Jeff had to rely on his dad to drive them, as there was no safe way to ride a bike or walk to the theater. The dependence on automobile travel made a profound impression on the young man.

"That experience made me want to go into design and literally change the way the world was built," said Jeff.

Over the years, Jeff said he's been inspired by a shift in how people think about where they want to live. Real estate agents, for example, now grade neighborhoods on their walkability. Alternate modes of travel such as ride sharing, public transit, and bikeable greenways have left people waiting longer to get their driver's license. It's a shift, he says, where people want to be more independent and live in places that are sustainable. In some ways, these projects are having even more profound, if unexpected, results.

"We didn't know that our kids would be spending so much time in front of screens," Olsen says. "Or that we were doing something that provides them time away from that. Just this idea of going place to place while spending time outdoors, it's this whole different thing."

**GREEN SPACES AND TRAILS
RANKED #1 AND #2 RESPECTIVELY
AS THE MOST SOUGHT-AFTER
COMMUNITY FEATURES IN A
RECENT STUDY OF POTENTIAL
HOMEBUYERS BY THE REAL
ESTATE ADVISING COMPANY
ROBERT CHARLES LESSER & CO.**

What is the biggest obstacle you see facing trail projects like the Thread Trail?

Jeff admits that, even for an experienced planner, these projects are challenging. Amongst all the obstacles that stand in the way of trail building teams, one stands out. "Money is the biggest threat, unfortunately," said Jeff. "I say unfortunately because we live in a very wealthy country. We have the resources to be doing this."

It's important, he says, to remember that it's not really about the money.

"It's very common to see highway projects in

the hundreds of millions of dollars. It happens all the time. And yet when people talk about prioritizing funding for a regional trail network, many are skeptical. The obstacle isn't the money itself, it's our value decision of what we choose to spend money on."

How does the Thread Trail compare to other developing trail systems in the US?

The Atlanta Beltline, he said, is using an interesting funding strategy where increased revenue from one section of the trail is paying for the next. "They're building a core trail and it's encouraging economic development to happen."

He calls out the Emerald Necklace in Boston, where a century of trail building dating back to the Olmsted era of the late 1800s has left the city with an expansive, interconnecting trail system. And in Minneapolis, a generous donation of land led developers to connect lakes and parks with an intricate web of trails.

But the Thread Trail, Jeff says, is different. "It's one of the trendsetting projects in the country." Jeff points to the 10 years of philanthropic seeding the Thread Trail has garnered as one of the exceptional stories in trail building. It's only one of a small handful of projects that have had such long-term, grassroots success, he recalls.

Also, unlike Boston, Charlotte's urban core is relatively new. Jeff says the challenge of building a regionalized trail system in a rapidly growing, newer city can't be overlooked.

But for Jeff, the biggest differentiator that makes the Thread Trail so special is the people. "Having 200 people at a conference like this. That's powerful."

"The heart and soul of the trail movement isn't about making money and investment," he continued. "It's just people with big hearts who want to do something good for their community."

According to Jeff, there is a very meaningful action every person currently involved in the Carolina Thread Trail could do right now.

"If you could do one thing this year, if each person here got 10 more people involved. Just take the time to find 10 more people. Get people connected. That by itself will help change the world."



NEW EXPERIENCES ON THE THREAD TRAIL

In 2017, five new segments of the Thread Trail opened across the region, allowing outdoor enthusiasts to spot a diverse array of wildlife while venturing into uptown Charlotte, parks, the town of Troutman and even a farmers market.

1

TOBY CREEK GREENWAY: PHASE 2

CHARLOTTE, NC

1.5 MILES / WALKING, RUNNING, BIKING



This new 1.5-mile section creates a paved greenway trail that branches off of Mallard Creek Greenway and allows visitors to walk, jog or bike through the campus of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. The trail also serves as a connector to Clark’s Creek Greenway. The addition of the Toby Creek Greenway to the Clark’s-Mallard Greenway system provides a total of nine miles of greenway connectivity and a connector trail to North Tryon Street. A stream flows alongside the quiet trail, and butterflies as well as a canopy of blooming tulip poplars, sycamores and box elder trees can be seen in the summer months.



Photo by Nancy Pierce

Toby Creek Greenway

2

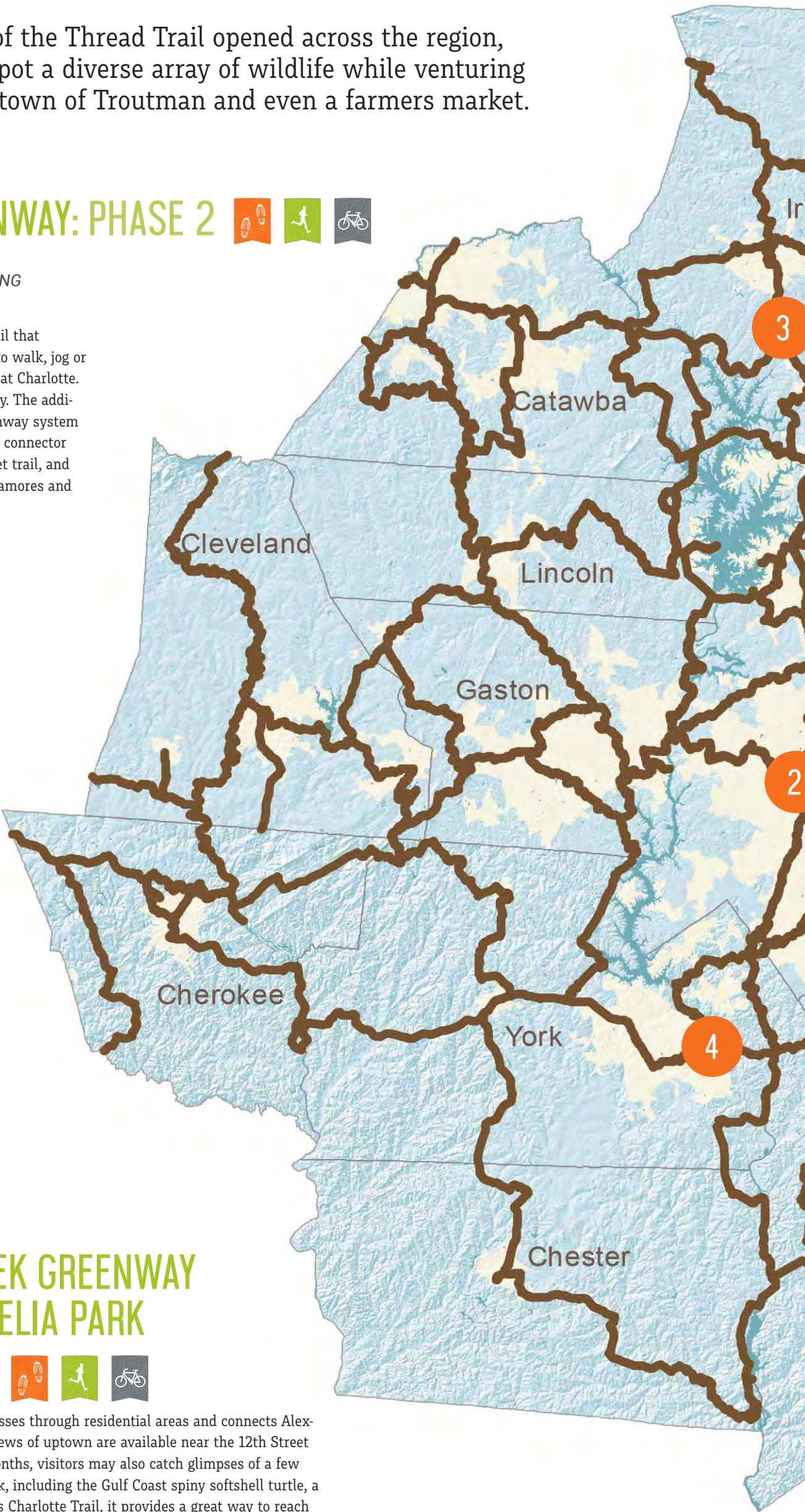
LITTLE SUGAR CREEK GREENWAY SEGMENT AT CORDELIA PARK

CHARLOTTE, NC

1 MILE / WALKING, RUNNING, BIKING



This paved segment of Little Sugar Green Greenway passes through residential areas and connects Alexander Street Park to Cordelia Park near uptown Charlotte. Views of uptown are available near the 12th Street entrance of this segment of the greenway. In the summer months, visitors may also catch glimpses of a few species of turtles that make their homes in the restored creek, including the Gulf Coast spiny softshell turtle, a flat turtle with a nose shaped like a snorkel. Part of the Cross Charlotte Trail, it provides a great way to reach the sports fields and playgrounds of both parks by foot.





THREAD TRAIL MASTER PLAN



3

RICHARDSON GREENWAY



TROUTMAN, NC
.25 MILES / WALKING, RUNNING, BIKING

This now 2-mile rail-to-trail conversion runs through the center of the town of Troutman and community of Barium Springs from Frazier Loop to Rumble Street. The greenway links the heart of Troutman, including downtown, Town Hall, Troutman Elementary and Middle schools, as well as a mix of offices, civic buildings, residences and commercial properties to the Troutman Village Shopping Center. This segment of the Thread Trail is also part of the Lake Norman Bicycle Route. One major trail highlight is the Troutman Depot, home to a farmers market on Saturdays during the summer.

4

CATAWBA RIVER TRAIL – MASONS BEND SECTION



FORT MILL, SC
1.5 MILES / WALKING, RUNNING, BIKING

This shared-use natural surface trail along the Catawba provides scenic river overlooks and wildlife viewing. The trail was built in conjunction with the Masons Bend residential community and serves as a coveted amenity for residents and the general public. For visitors living outside of the development, two small parking areas are provided for trail access. The Masons Bend segment will soon link to the Piedmont Medical Center Trail at Riverwalk via construction of another 2.3 mile section along the river to be completed in late summer 2018. This will give trail users access to over 6 miles of continuous Thread Trail.



Masons Bend

Photo by Bret Baronak



Rocky River Blueway at RROPP Park

5

ROCKY RIVER BLUEWAY



MIDLAND, NORWOOD, OAKBORO, WADESBORO, NC
49.5 MILES / PADDLING

The Rocky River Blueway starts at Pharr Family Preserve in the town of Midland and continues for about 49.5 miles, where it flows into the Pee Dee River for another 19 miles to the Blewett Falls Lake Access in Lilesville. This undammed water path provides long-distance flatwater kayaking and canoeing opportunities. There are seven canoe and kayak launch points located along the course. More than 50 species of birds call the area home, including the prairie warbler, prothonotary warbler, redheaded woodpecker, great blue heron, eastern meadowlark, pileated woodpecker and kingfisher. Those with a keen eye may spot butterfly species like the Carolina satyr and floodplain trees such as the bitternut hickory, sourwood, cottonwood, swamp chestnut oak and black walnut along the route.



SPOTLIGHT: VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

WHIT STRUNK



volunteer for CLC and CTT since 2015, Whit is a Trail Master, Thread Trail Ambassador and Land Stewardship Committee member. He’s donated more than 300 hours of service to advance the Thread Trail, as well as supported strategic activities to ensure conserved properties managed by CLC are maintained properly.

“I believe conserving land and providing activities where people can enjoy nature is more important than ever,” Whit said. “Catawba Land Conservancy and Carolina Thread Trail provide me with a number of opportunities to work with others holding a similar belief. Volunteering is also good for my spirit, mind and body. John Muir reflected my experience when he said, ‘In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks.’”

Whit always offers to lead projects, whether they are creek crossings, managing kayak rentals during National Trails Day, doing trail construction work with volunteers or tracking trail maintenance issues. He strives to get to know other volunteers and naturally builds a team during workdays. His warm personality and ambitious attitude creates a fun and gratifying environment for everyone around him!



Whit Strunk with Stewardship Director Sharon Wilson at Trail Forum

Photo by Nancy Pierce



VOLUNTEER WORKDAYS

HOW YOU’VE HELPED US ADVANCE THE THREAD TRAIL IN 2017

We recruit and train volunteers to help build and maintain segments of the Thread Trail across the region. In addition to nine workdays throughout the year, we also hosted 11 corporate teams.

In 2017, we cleared the Scott Preserve Trail, hosted National Trails Day, sponsored by REI, at the South Fork Trail and River and co-hosted National Public Lands Day at Ridgeline Trail with Crowders Mountain State Park.



Merrill Lynch workday at Long Creek Preserve Trail



Seven Oaks Preserve Trail workday with Husqvarna Group

2017 CORPORATE WORKDAYS

- **April 14** – Forney Creek Trail with Heartwood Tree Service – Removal of Emerald Ash Borer trees.
- **May 19** – South Fork Trail with Carolinas HealthCare System – Eliminated invasive species.
- **June 9** – Seven Oaks Preserve Trail with Husqvarna Group – Took down 46 trees that were diseased, dead or dangerous, as well as clearing invasive species.

THE 10TH ANNUAL TRAIL FORUM

REFLECTING ON 10 YEARS OF TRAIL FORUMS

For a decade, more than 200 professionals and community leaders have been coming together to advance this region’s trail and river network during the annual Trail Forum. Through collaboration and cross-municipal partnerships, the Carolina Thread Trail is getting closer to a connected 1,590-mile reality. We’re grateful to the presenters for sharing their expertise, the exhibitors for offering their services to Thread Trail projects, the sponsors for helping us host the conference and the volunteers for assisting in running this daylong event. Most of all, we’re thankful for the continued efforts of our attendees as practitioners and advocates to expand trails in this community! We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to our lead sponsors Arboguard and REI for the 10th annual Trail Forum.

Thank You to Our Sponsors!





Prescribed burn at Buffalo Creek Preserve



2017 GRANTS RECEIVED

DUKE ENERGY HABITAT
ENHANCEMENT GRANT

\$16,000 to support native plant resto-
ration and increase biodiversity on eight
acres of the Seven Oaks Preserve property
along Lake Wylie adjoining Daniel Stowe
Botanical Garden.

THE CARRIE E. AND LENA V. GLENN
FOUNDATION GRANT

\$12,000 to fund enhancements along the
South Fork Trail in McAdenville including
trailhead improvement, native tree resto-
ration, invasive species removal, graffiti
removal and treating trees against the
emerald ash borer.

CARDINAL FOUNDATION

\$3,000 for Buffalo Creek Preserve habitat
restoration, including a herbicide spray
and burn in 2018.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION
EASEMENT PROGRAM

(UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
AND NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION
SERVICE):

\$346,000 toward protecting Piedmont
Jerseys farm (Eaker Farm) in Lincolnton.

NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURE
DEPARTMENT AND FARMLAND
PRESERVATION TRUST FUND

\$187,000 toward protecting Piedmont
Jersey farm (Eaker Farm) in Lincolnton.

NORTH CAROLINA CLEAN WATER
MANAGEMENT TRUST FUND

\$143,000 for purchase of 28 acres for a
segment of Thread Trail in Lincoln County.



CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL
2017 GRANTS TO THE COMMUNITY

To date, the Thread Trail has granted more than \$5.7 million to local communities as a catalyst for putting miles of trails on the ground. Local communities and nonprofits with adopted master plans can apply for grants to support trail planning, building or maintenance. Often these funds are leveraged into matching funds from state and federal funding sources.

In 2017, the Thread Trail awarded 11 grants totaling \$304,390! Congratulations to all of this year’s grant recipients:

BROAD RIVER GREENWAY

\$26,500 to construct a canoe launch on the
Broad River.

IREDELL COUNTY PARKS AND
RECREATION

\$9,440 for a planning study to determine the
route for Fourth Creek Trail.

CITY OF CONOVER

\$19,850 to purchase trail easements to
extend Lyle Creek Greenway to Newton-
Conover Elementary School.

CITY OF ROCK HILL

\$50,000 to design and construct Manchester
Trail, which will connect the existing
Catawba River Trail at River Park to
Manchester Park.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF CATAWBA
COUNTY

\$15,000 for the acquisition of the Carson-Rose
Property.

CITY OF SALISBURY

\$100,000 to cover the remaining cost of
construction of trail connecting Kelsey Scott
Park to Jake Alexander Boulevard.

CITY OF SHELBY

\$35,000 for the detailed corridor plan to
evaluate the corridor in anticipation of
development of the Shelby Rail Trail.

TOWN OF HUNTERSVILLE

\$15,000 for the Trail Corridor Study to
determine the appropriate route, feasibility
and property ownership status for the Torrence
Creek – Rosedale Greenway connector segment
from I-77 east to downtown Huntersville.

TOWN OF MATTHEWS PARKS,
RECREATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCE
DEPARTMENT

\$30,000 to fund the engineering and design
cost for the 1.25-mile Sam Newell Pathway.

TOWN OF MCADENVILLE

\$1,100 to cover a portion of trail easement
survey costs on three contiguous properties in
McAdenville.

LINCOLN COUNTY PLANNING

\$2,500 to construct a wooden bridge that will
span the creek on the southern portion of the
Rock Springs Nature Preserve.



Future trail connecting the South Fork Rail Trail to the Marcia Cloninger Rail Trail

CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL
2017 GRANTS RECEIVED

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF GASTON COUNTY \$100,000 to expand trails in Gaston County.

LINCOLN COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION \$5,000 for trail development to connect South
Fork Rail Trail to Marcia H. Cloninger Rail Trail in Lincolnton.

REI \$10,000 in underwriting for Trail Forum.



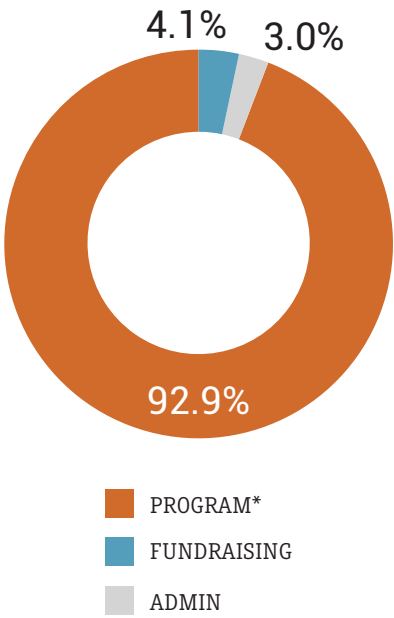
CATAWBA LANDS CONSERVANCY FINANCIAL REPORT

OPERATING BUDGET SUMMARY 2016-2017 GENERAL FUND¹

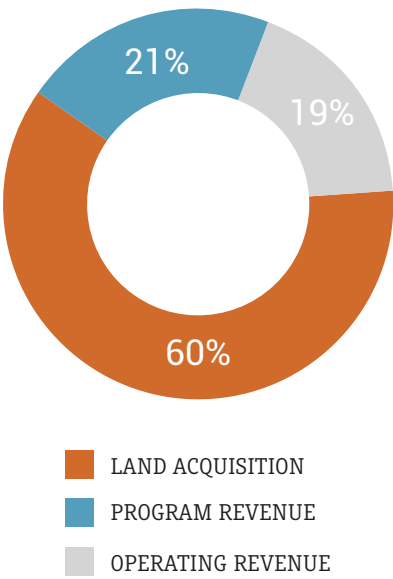
REVENUE		2016	2017
	Donors	\$1,020,308	\$520,811
	Foundations & Govt.	\$153,614	\$87,280
	Corp. Partners	\$263,159	\$286,451
	Other	\$7,335	\$36,865
	Stewardship Transfer	\$25,000	\$25,000
	Total Revenue	\$1,469,416	\$956,407
EXPENSES	Compensation	\$533,723	\$521,998
	Office/Administrative	\$159,783	\$160,410
	Outreach & Development	\$144,870	\$132,988
	Total Expenses	\$838,376	\$815,396
	Operating Net	\$631,040	\$141,011

1. Unaudited. Excludes restricted project revenue and costs, including land acquisitions and Carolina Thread Trail.
2. 2016 Includes one-time \$536,000 gift.

2017 FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES* UNAUDITED

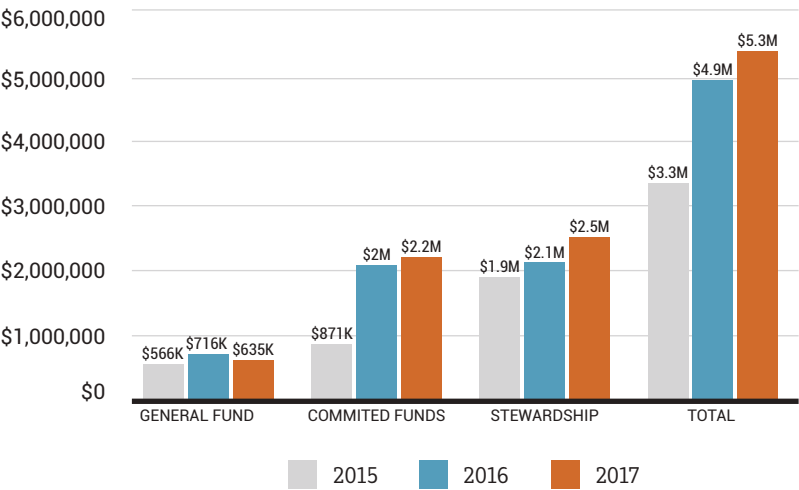


2017 REVENUE UNAUDITED \$5,200,000

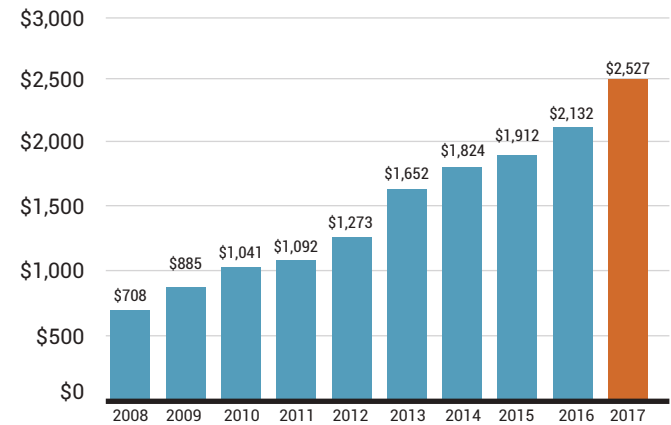


*As reported in the Form 990. All expenses, including CTT and land acquisition costs

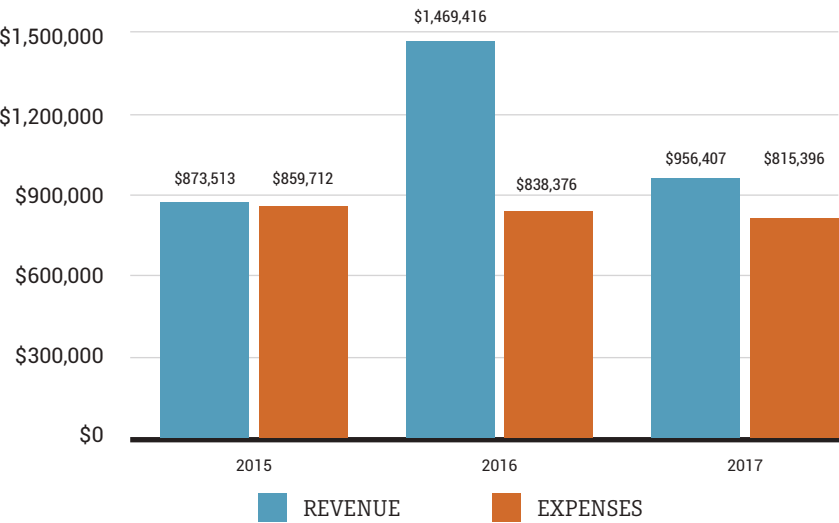
CASH BALANCES



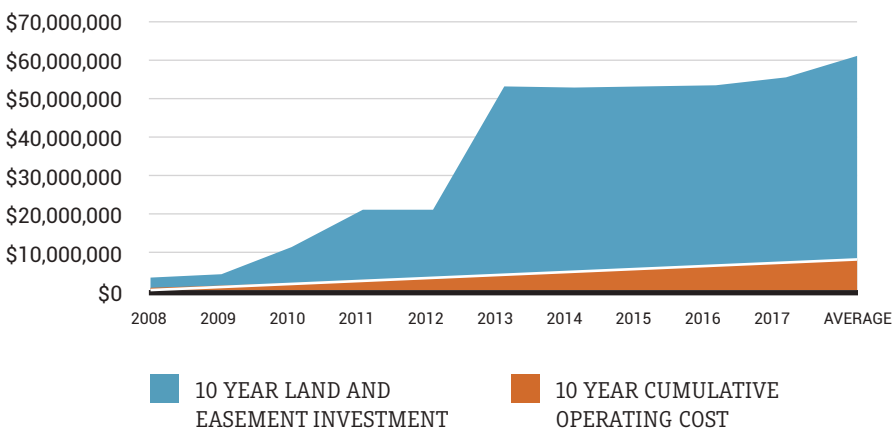
STEWARDSHIP & LEGAL DEFENSE FUND



GENERAL FUND REVENUE & EXPENSES



LEVERAGING CAPITAL FOR CONSERVATION





CLC 2017 DONORS

Our donors' generous support each year enables us to pursue our mission of saving land and connecting lives to nature. This list includes gifts that were made during the 2017 calendar year.

**Donor for 10 consecutive years*

- MAGNOLIA - SOCIETY

In honor of our 25th anniversary, this giving circle of passionate supporters has committed five-year pledges that provide for operational stability and dedicated funding for land acquisition during this critical period of growth. Named for the bigleaf magnolia, CLC's most impressive protected plant species, this group represents the greatest commitment to our mission.

CT and Dante Anderson
Philip and Amy Blumenthal
Phillips and Leslie Bragg
Ann and Ric Browning
Jarred and Emily Cochran
Nancy and Ralph Falls

Walter and Michele Fisher
D. Scott Pyle and Eileen Friars
Andy and Claudia Heath
Jim and Becky Hovis
Kelly Katterhagen and Larry Nabatoff
Jud and Deborah Little

Jonathan and Marianne Mangels
Tom and Robin McCoy
Tim and Julianne McCollum
Bob and Sally Miller
Bill and Katharina Mumford
Tom and Amy Okel

Richard J. Osborne
Tim and Nancy Paschall
Lat and Kathy Purser
Laurie Smith
Jack and Melissa Sullivan
Bill and Rita Vandiver

Chet and Christine Walker
Henry and Jenny Ward
Kathryn Heath and Tom Webb

- CATAWBA - SOCIETY

Catawba Society was formed in 2007 as a giving circle of CLC's most generous donors. Through leadership gifts of \$1,500 and more, members provide significant financial resources to support CLC's operating fund. To learn more, visit catawbalands.org/membership.

\$10,000+

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Kathryn Heath and Tom Webb*
Jud and Deborah Little*
Sally and Bob Miller
Amy and Tom Okel
Ruth and Colin Shaw
Charlton K. Torrence, III*
Rita and Bill Vandiver*

\$5,000+

Anonymous
Ann and Ric Browning*
Teddy Chapman
Dr. and Mrs. Clay Harrell
Andy and Claudia Heath
Jeff and Mimi Kane
Kelly Katterhagen and Larry Nabatoff
James and Sandra Keffer
Robert and Esten Mason
Tom and Robin McCoy*
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Ken Samuelson

\$2,500+

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- CATAWBA - CORPS

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Weston and Marty Andress
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CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL FINANCIAL REPORT

OPERATING EXPENSE BY PROGRAM

	2016 ACTUAL	2017+ ACTUAL	2018 BUDGET
Personnel Cost	\$572,247	\$578,075	\$575,000
Office/Admin	\$68,523	\$82,206	\$93,250
Outreach & Development	\$94,469	\$117,141	\$150,000
Operations	\$19,661	\$19,127	\$29,750
Total Operating Expense	\$754,900	\$796,549	\$848,000

*Unaudited

FUND BALANCES

ASSETS	FUND BALANCE: 12/31/2017
Cash	\$1,680,319
Outstanding Pledges	\$1,716,316
Endowment Fund	\$3,207,313
Total Assets, Net	\$6,603,948

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OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Join us on one of our upcoming FREE events! Visit carolinathreadtrail.org/events-calendar for more information and registration. Pre-registration is required for all programs.

THURSDAY, APRIL 5: FITNESS WALK AT RIVERWALK PIEDMONT MEDICAL CENTER TRAIL
6-7 p.m. • Rock Hill, SC
3 miles. Easy, paved trail.

SATURDAY, APRIL 7: FAMILY TREE PLANTING
9 a.m.-12 p.m. • Denver, NC
Tools, work gloves lunch, snacks and drinks provided. Closed-toed shoes required. Children welcome.

THURSDAY, APRIL 19: SUNSET BIKE RIDE AT FORNEY CREEK TRAIL
6-7:30 p.m. • Denver, NC
7 miles. Intermediate mountain bike trail ride.

FRIDAY, APRIL 27: STAR PARTY AT PHARR FAMILY PRESERVE
7-10 p.m. • Concord, NC

FRIDAY, MAY 4: BIG-LEAF MAGNOLIA NATURE HIKE
1-4 p.m. • Gastonia, NC
4+ miles. Moderate to strenuous hike.

THURSDAY, MAY 17: SUNSET BIKE RIDE AT KINGS MOUNTAIN GATEWAY TRAIL
6:30-8:30 p.m. • Kings Mountain, NC
10 miles. Easy to moderate, crushed gravel trail ride.

THURSDAY, MAY 24: BEGINNER TRAIL RUN AT TWELVE MILE CREEK
6-7 p.m. • Waxhaw, NC
2.5 miles. Moderate difficulty.

UPCOMING MEMBER PROGRAMS

Member programs are open to members of CLC and CTT. Visit carolinathreadtrail.org/member-programs for details and registration. Pre-registration is required for all programs.

SATURDAY, MAY 19: MEMBER BIKE RIDE – QUEEN CITY BIKE TOUR.
8-11 a.m. Charlotte, NC.
20 miles. Advanced, on-road group ride. Breakfast provided.

SATURDAY, MAY 19: MEMBER PADDLE – SOUTH FORK RIVER BLUEWAY.
8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. McAdenville, NC
5.5 miles. Moderate difficulty. All gear provided.

FRIDAY, MAY 25 & FRIDAY, JUNE 8: GREENWAY GALS – SPIDER LILY PADDLE AT LANDSFORD CANAL STATE PARK. 9 a.m -12 p.m. Catawba, SC
5 miles. Moderate difficulty. All gear provided.

THURSDAY, JULY 14: MEMBER HIKE: MUSHROOM FORAY AT LAUREL HILL PRESERVE. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Gastonia, NC
3+ miles. Moderate hike.

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