

# TRAIL FORUM 2019

*Advancing the  
Carolina Thread Trail*



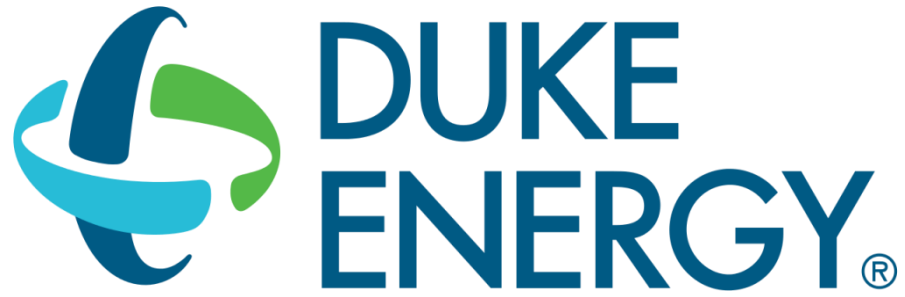
# WELCOME TO THE 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL TRAIL FORUM

Presented by



**DUKE  
ENERGY®**





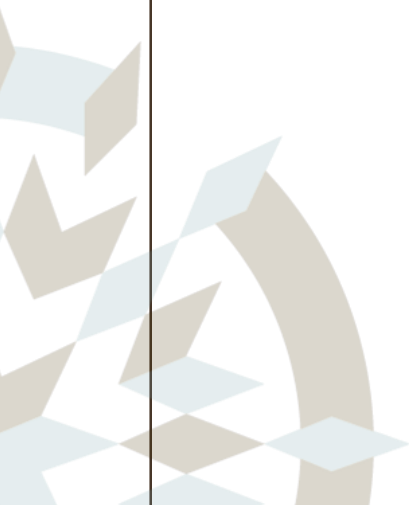
# CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL FOUNDING PARTNERS



THANK YOU TO OUR PRESENTING SPONSOR!



DUKE  
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THANK YOU TO OUR GOLD EVENT SPONSORS!







# THANK YOU TO OUR SESSION LEADERS!



- York County Planning and Zoning Department
- University of South Carolina & Columbia College
- Wildlands Engineering
- Alta Planning + Design
- eBike Central
- Ingersoll Rand
- Charlotte Department of Transportation
- Catawba Lands Conservancy
- Blue Ridge Trail Works Inc.
- McAdams
- City of Concord Parks and Recreation Department
- Walton Family Foundation
- Alfred Benesch & Company
- National Park Service
- Overmountain Victory Trail Committee
- Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation Department
- LandDesign
- Mecklenburg County Asset & Facility Management
- Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization
- NC Outdoor Recreation Coalition & Advisory Council



# AGENDA



- 9:00 – 9:30 Welcome & Introduction
- 9:40 – 10:40 Concurrent Sessions #1
- 10:40 – 11:00 Break
- 11:00 – 12:00 Concurrent Sessions #2
- 12:00 – 1:30 Lunch – Keynote
- 1:30 – 2:30 Concurrent Sessions #3
- 2:30 – 2:50 Break
- 2:50 – 3:50 Closing Session- Keynote
- 3:50 – 4:30 Wrap Up & Raffle





# CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS



- CECs are available for: AICP and Landscape Architects in North and South Carolina
  - AICP NC - Sign-in sheet at check-in



## TODAY'S LUNCH KEYNOTE SPEAKER: GARY VERNON



- Program Officer Walton Family Foundation
- 2019 Recipient of the American Trails Chairman Award
- Previous Director in the Environmental Division of Walmart





# TODAY'S CLOSING KEYNOTE SPEAKER: NOAH WILSON




- Program Director of the Growing Outdoors Partnership
- Board Secretary of the NC Outdoor Recreation Coalition & Advisory Council

# SURVEY AND RAFFLE PRIZE



At the end of the final session, please take a moment to fill out the event survey for a chance to win outdoor gear prizes from REI!

 **11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL THREAD TRAIL FORUM SURVEY**

*Turn in this survey with your raffle ticket to win one of the many raffle prizes at the end of Closing Session. You must be present to win.*

1. How would you rate the length of Trail Forum? ☐ Too Long ☐ Too Short ☐ About Right

2. Which sessions did you attend?

<input type="checkbox"/> Designing Accessible Trails and Greenways in North Carolina	<input type="checkbox"/> Evaluating the Economic Impact of Shared Use Paths in North Carolina
<input type="checkbox"/> Beyond Awareness: Galvanizing Trail Advocates through Multimedia Storytelling	<input type="checkbox"/> Keynote Speaker – Ryan Green
<input type="checkbox"/> Challenges in Rural Tourism Development: A Case of Great Falls, NC	<input type="checkbox"/> The New River Trail: Conservation through Recreation
<input type="checkbox"/> Navigating the Trail Easement Acquisition Process	<input type="checkbox"/> Top Ten Ways to Effectively Work with Duke Energy
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Town and Rural Multimodal Networks Design Guide	<input type="checkbox"/> East Coast Greenway State Level Strategic Planning – Get it Built!
	<input type="checkbox"/> Greenways and Recreation Discussion Panel

3. Of the sessions you attended, which did you find most useful? (choose one)

<input type="checkbox"/> Designing Accessible Trails and Greenways in North Carolina	<input type="checkbox"/> Evaluating the Economic Impact of Shared Use Paths in North Carolina
<input type="checkbox"/> Beyond Awareness: Galvanizing Trail Advocates through Multimedia Storytelling	<input type="checkbox"/> Keynote Speaker – Ryan Green
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	<input type="checkbox"/> Greenways and Recreation Discussion Panel

Why/Why Not

4. Of the sessions you attended, which did you find least useful? (choose one)

<input type="checkbox"/> Designing Accessible Trails and Greenways in North Carolina	<input type="checkbox"/> Evaluating the Economic Impact of Shared Use Paths in North Carolina
<input type="checkbox"/> Beyond Awareness: Galvanizing Trail Advocates through Multimedia Storytelling	<input type="checkbox"/> Keynote Speaker – Ryan Green
<input type="checkbox"/> Challenges in Rural Tourism Development: A Case of Great Falls, NC	<input type="checkbox"/> The New River Trail: Conservation through Recreation
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<input type="checkbox"/> Small Town and Rural Multimodal Networks Design Guide	<input type="checkbox"/> East Coast Greenway State Level Strategic Planning – Get it Built!
	<input type="checkbox"/> Greenways and Recreation Discussion Panel

Why/Why Not

- OVER -

5. How effective was Trail Forum overall? ☐ Very ☐ Moderately ☐ Slightly ☐ Not at all

6. How do you feel about having a keynote speaker during lunch (who is continuing education credit approved) versus having an open lunch for attendees to network and socialize?

7. Do you have suggestions for future Trail Forum topics and/or formats?

8. How could the Trail Forum be improved?

9. Other comments/suggestions about the Trail Forum or Thread Trail project in general?

*Thank you for your participation!*

DON'T FORGET TO TURN IN YOUR SURVEY AT THE END OF CLOSING SESSION FOR A CHANCE TO WIN ONE OF OUR MANY RAFFLE PRIZES FROM REI!

## Your feedback is important to us!



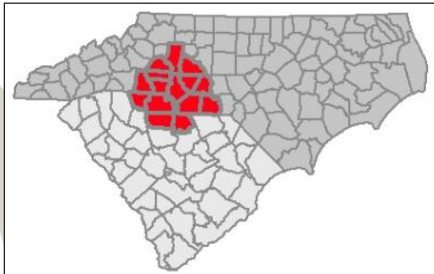


# CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL OVERVIEW



- Planned Segments
- Completed Segments

- Planned Miles: **1,610**
- Completed Miles: **280**
- Additional Blueway Miles: **170**







# 2019 HIGHLIGHTS



# CTT 2019 OPENINGS - THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS!

Project	County	Town	Miles	Surface Type	Opened
Founders Trail	York	Rock Hill/ Fort Mill, SC	2.3	Natural	March 2019
Masons Bend Trail	York	Fort Mill, SC	1.25	Natural	March 2019
Lake Whelchel - Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail	Cherokee	Gaffney, SC	7.5	Natural	June 29, 2019
Little Sugar Creek Greenway – Huntingtowne Farms to I-485	Mecklenburg	Charlotte, NC	2.2	Paved	Late June 2019
Long Creek Trail Extension (USNWC)	Mecklenburg	Charlotte, NC	2.0	Natural	Phase I: Open Phase II: Late 2019
Hector H. Henry Greenway	Cabarrus	Concord, NC	2.4	Natural	August 2019
Antiquity Greenway	Mecklenburg	Cornelius, NC	0.6	Paved	August 2019
River Link Greenway	Gaston	Cramerton, NC	0.6	Paved	September 2019
Uptown Cycle Track	Mecklenburg	Charlotte, NC	1.5	Paved	May 2019
Mount Holly Riverfront Greenway	Gaston	Mount Holly, NC	1.25	Paved	December 2019

**Total: 21.6**





# FOUNDERS TRAIL

York County

Rock Hill & Fort Mill, SC







# MASONS BEND TRAIL

York County  
Fort Mill, SC







# OVERMOUNTAIN VICTORY NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL: LAKE WHELCHER SEGMENT

Cherokee County  
Gaffney, SC







# **NORTH-SOUTH SPINE: LITTLE SUGAR CREEK GREENWAY HUNTINGTOWNE FARMS TO I-485**

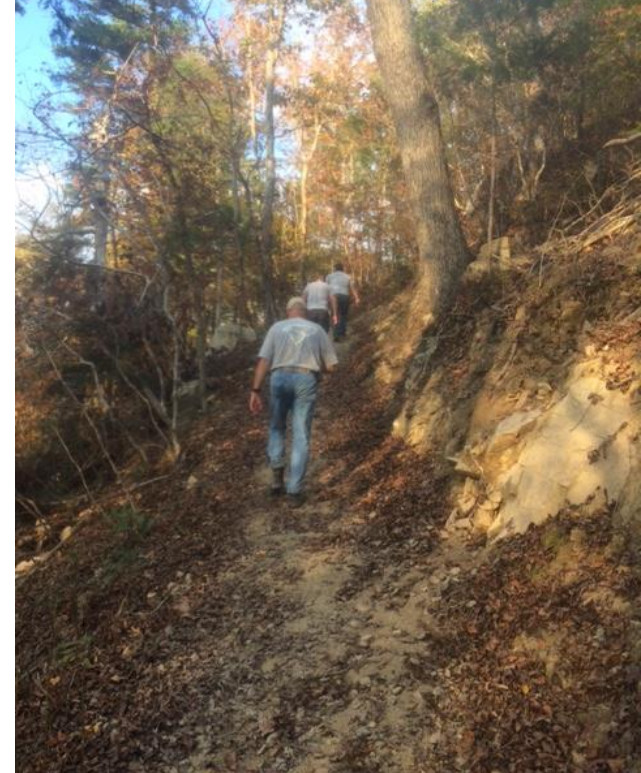
**Mecklenburg County**  
Charlotte, NC











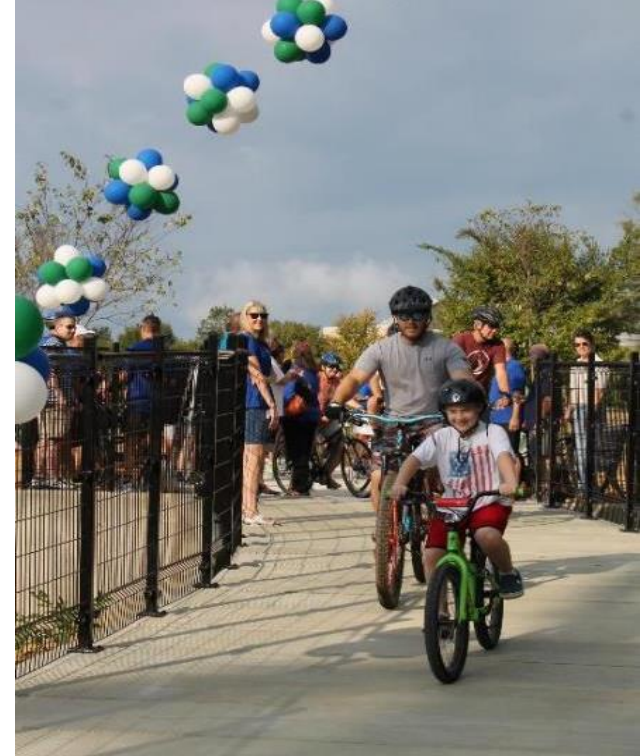
# HECTOR HENRY GREENWAY

Cabarrus County

Concord, NC



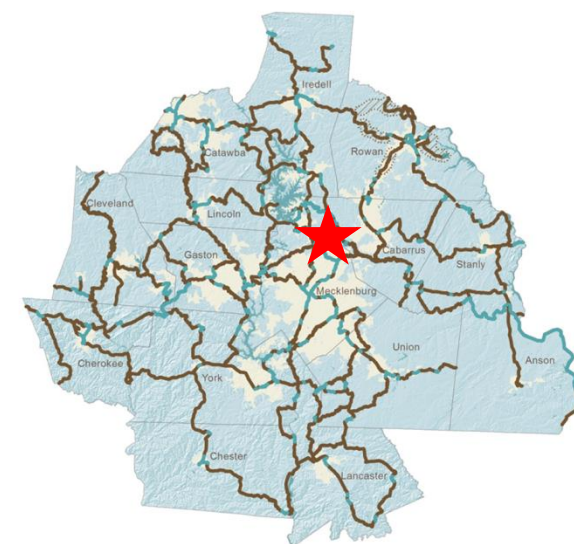




# ANTIQUITY GREENWAY

Mecklenburg County

Cornelius, NC





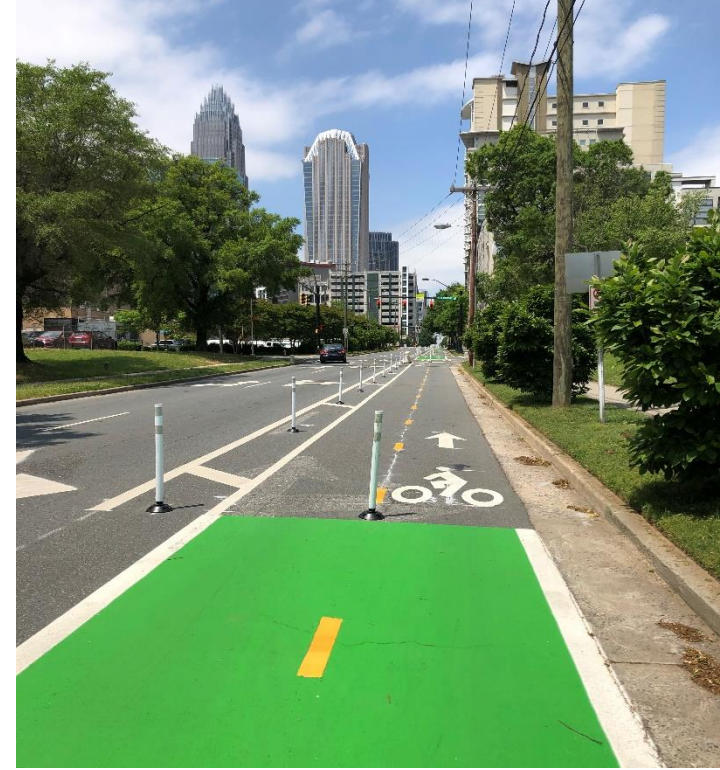


# RIVER LINK GREENWAY

Gaston County  
Cramerton, NC







# UPTOWN CYCLE TRACK

Mecklenburg County

Charlotte, NC







# MOUNT HOLLY RIVERFRONT GREENWAY

Gaston County  
Mount Holly, NC







**CSX GREAT FALLS - 20 MILES**  
**3.5 MILES UNDER DEVELOPMENT**  
**Chester County**  
Great Falls, SC









# SHELBY RAIL TRAIL

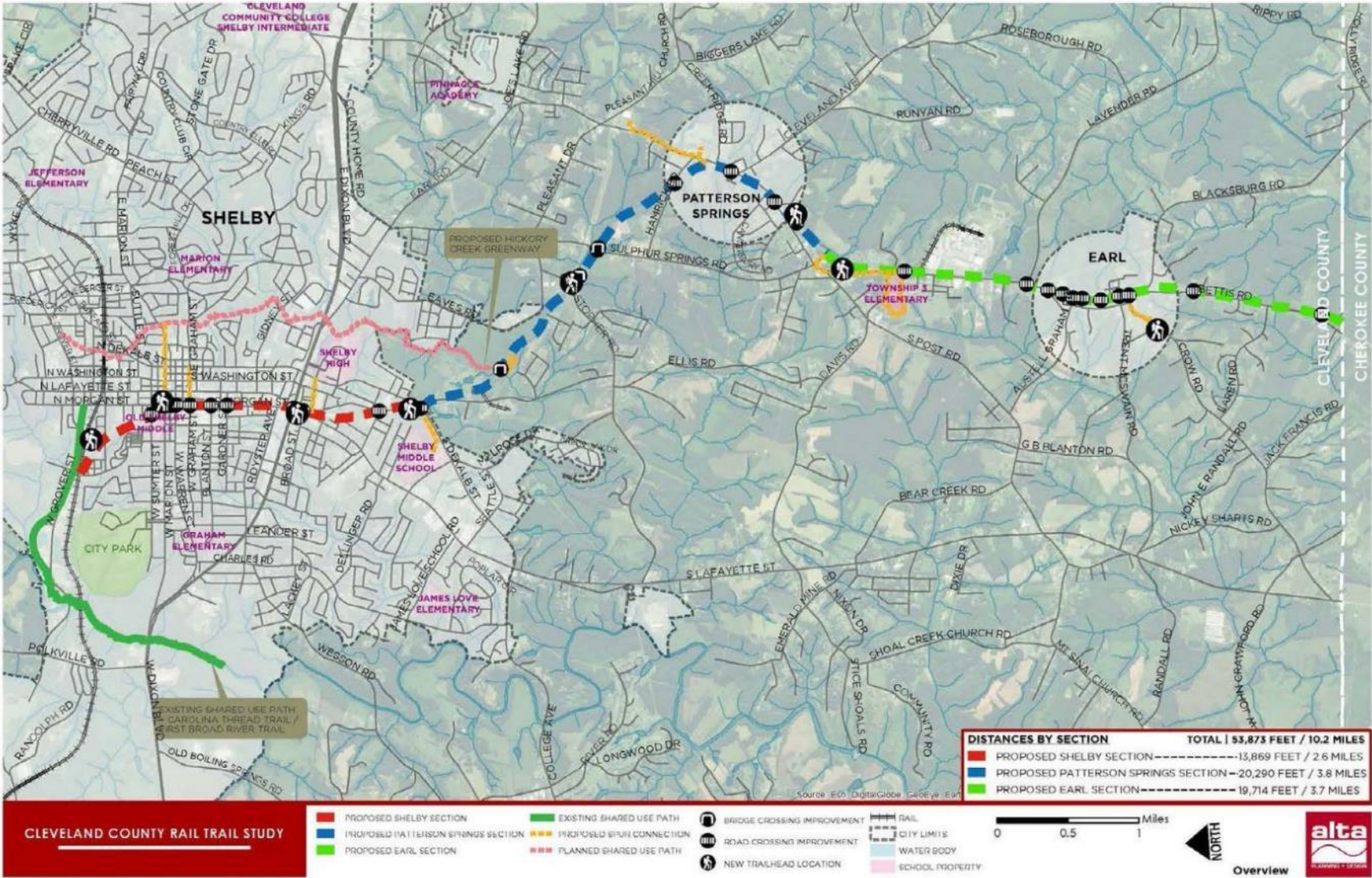
Cleveland County  
Shelby, NC







# SHELBY RAIL TRAIL





# COMING SOON!

Project	County	Lead
Hector Henry Greenway – Riverwalk Section	Cabarrus	Concord
Irish Buffalo Creek Greenway	Cabarrus	Kannapolis
Cross-Charlotte Trail (XCLT) – 7 <sup>th</sup> to 10 <sup>th</sup> Street	Mecklenburg	City of Charlotte
Cross-Charlotte Trail (XCLT) – Brandywine to Tyvola	Mecklenburg	City of Charlotte
Charlotte Uptown Cycle Track Phase II	Mecklenburg	City of Charlotte
Little Sugar Creek Greenway – I-485 to Polk Historic Site	Mecklenburg	Mecklenburg County Park and Rec
Stewart Creek Greenway Extension	Mecklenburg	Mecklenburg County Park and Rec
Long Creek Greenway	Mecklenburg	Mecklenburg County Park and Rec
McAlpine Creek Greenway Extension to Providence Road	Mecklenburg	Mecklenburg County Park and Rec
Statesville Greenway	Iredell	City of Statesville
Salisbury Greenway	Rowan	City of Salisbury
Great Falls Rail-Trail	Chester	Town of Great Falls/Chester County
12-Mile Creek Greenway	Union	Town of Waxhaw
Dye Creek Greenway	Iredell	Town of Mooresville
Lindsay Pettus Greenway	Lancaster	Lindsay Pettus Greenway, Inc.



The background of the slide is a photograph of a forest trail. On the left, a group of hikers is seen from behind, walking away on a dirt path. The hiker in the foreground is wearing a large red and black backpack and green shorts. The forest is dense with green trees and foliage. A large, semi-transparent orange rectangle covers the center of the image. Inside this rectangle, at the top, is a faint, light-colored geometric pattern of interlocking triangles. The title text is centered within the orange rectangle.

# TRAIL IMPLEMENTATION GRANT PROGRAM







# CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR 2019 GRANT RECIPIENTS!



- City of Gastonia
- Cleveland County Water
- Town of McAdenville
- Lindsay Pettus Greenway
- Catawba Lands Conservancy
- Town of Great Falls
- Town of Cramerton
- Town of Davidson
- City of Mount Holly
- Town of Matthews
- City of Salisbury
- Town of Cornelius
- City of Concord

Total Implementation Grants awarded in 2019:

**\$816,000**





# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT







## VOLUNTEER WORKDAYS

In 2019, we hosted

- 34 community and corporate workdays
- 450+ volunteers
- With the help from Trail Master leadership!

**Contact us to let us know how our community of volunteers can support you!**

- Trail design
- Trail construction and maintenance
- Invasive eradication
- Tree planting
- Debris removal





## TRAIL MASTERS

Leaders in developing and maintaining segments of the Carolina Thread Trail throughout the 15-county region.

Four-day course in sustainable trail building, maintenance and volunteer management

- 12 new implementation partners and community volunteer graduates in Oct. 2019 – Fort Mill, SC
- New trail and stewardship program for 2020







## PUBLIC AND MEMBER PROGRAMS

### 2019 Recap:

- 56 programs
  - 27 hikes
  - 17 bike rides
  - 12 paddles
- 11 educational programs
- 20 partner programs
- 800 + participants engaged

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Contact us to let us know how we can partner on recreational and educational programs!





## NATIONAL TRAILS DAY JUNE 1, 2019

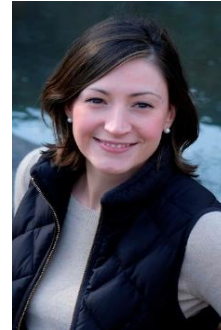
- Goat Island Park – Cramerton, NC
- 1,700 people
- Featured over 3 miles of Thread Trail throughout the town
- 30 outdoor exhibitors, eco kayak tour, free kayak/SUP rentals, guided walks and bike rides, volunteer workday, bands and playgrounds

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**June 6, 2020: presented by Duke Energy**  
**Tuckaseege Park on the Catawba River -**  
**Mount Holly, NC**



# CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL AND CATAWBA LANDS CONSERVANCY STAFF THANKS YOU!







# THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP!

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