



CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL.

16th ANNUAL TRAIL FORUM

Presented by: LandDesign

Speaker bios

Keynote - Ready, Set, Thrive! Trail Communities Prospering Through Partnerships

Amy Camp

Amy Camp, owner of Cycle Forward, is a trails and tourism consultant who helped launch the nationally recognized Trail Town Program® in 2007. She went on to establish Cycle Forward and is now celebrating 10 years in business. She supports local leaders and communities in trail town development, strengthening heritage tourism, and bolstering the outdoor recreation economy. Amy has consulted and led workshops throughout Appalachia, the Rust Belt, and other locations in the U.S. and Canada. Her book, *Deciding on Trails*, details the history of the Trail Town movement and recommends best practices for trail communities. Amy served on the Board of American Trails from 2012-17, and now serves on the Board of the Continental Divide Trail Coalition. She is an Associate Certified Coach through the International Coach Federation. Amy earned her Master of Public Administration from the University of Pittsburgh. She lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where she first grew to love communities and began her work to help improve them.

You can connect with Amy at www.cycleforward.org, www.cycleforward.com/substack (blog), Facebook (@cycleforwardpgh), and Instagram (@cycle_forward). She'll also pick up the phone if you simply want to give her a call.

Ready to Design a Greenway?: Design Best Practices + Field Study

Jimmy Prestwood, PE

Jimmy is a bicycle and pedestrian engineer within the Transportation group at McAdams that supports the planning and design of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure projects. With relevant experience designing both on- and off-street facilities, his skills include developing alignment alternatives, corridor modeling, advancing permitting and cost estimation. As an avid road cyclist and advocate for trails, Jimmy understands the importance of user experience and is motivated to create safe, practical and active transportation in communities across North Carolina.

Nick Lowe, RLA

Nick is a senior landscape architect and park planner with McAdams and has 17 years of experience in the planning and industry. Nick has managed complex parks and recreation master plan projects for public agencies throughout the Carolinas and has experience planning outdoor environments and public open spaces. His recent endeavors have led to working with local governments to create high-performance public spaces that include phased master plans which help maximize valuable resources for construction. His focus on creating parks that reflect place through sustainable design and space making helps clients deliver truly authentic places.

Will Washam

Will Washam is a Transportation and Land Use Planner working for the Town of Mooresville, NC. Over his 11-year career, Will has helped deliver regionally significant bikeway projects and push forward multi-modal transportation in

the Charlotte metro. Outside of local government planning, Will dedicates many hours to volunteer trail design and construction through the Tarheel Trailblazers, a 501©3 mountain bike advocacy non-profit.

Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden: Using Trails as a Catalyst for Strategic Renovation and Programming

Eric Smallwood

I am an outdoor enthusiast and nature lover at heart. I was born in Summersville, West Virginia right in the heart of whitewater and climbing country. I grew up camping and trout fishing with my parents in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains of western North Carolina. Now, with a family of my own, I continue to make those same memories and connections with nature thru camping, hiking, riding, and paddling the local trails and beautiful waterways of our area. I still enjoy the solitude of a long trail run and the grind of an all-day mountain bike ride in the woods quite frequently to disconnect from the noise of the world and connect with melody of nature.

After graduating from Guilford College with a bachelor's degree in Sports Business Management, I began a 15-year career in the public Parks and Recreation field. What began as a desire to be involved with sports quickly became a reignited passion for the outdoors and our natural spaces. My most recent position as the leader of the Town of Cramerton Parks and Recreation Department afforded me the opportunity to partner with like-minded individuals and organizations to capitalize on and conserve our natural resources and establish Cramerton as one of the premier outdoor recreation destinations in the Charlotte Region.

Jason Bonham

I have been interested in plants for as long as I can remember. My older brother and I used to spend every day in the woods exploring, building tree forts and searching for salamanders and frogs. When I went to college at Ohio University I knew I wanted to do something with plants. It wasn't until accepting an internship in Hawaii at the National Tropical Botanical Gardens that I knew I wanted to focus on Public Gardens. After graduating with a degree in Botany I interned at Longwood Gardens and then moved to California to work at Lotusland in Santa Barbara and then the University of California Botanical Garden at Berkeley. My job here at the Garden encompasses maintaining and enhancing the outdoor gardens. That involves everything from caring for the gardens extensive plant collections to making sure the fountains are up and running. My main task though is to help support the horticulture staff so that they can continue to do the amazing work that they were doing before I arrived.

John Searby

My passion for the outdoors influences everything I do. I grew up bird hunting with my grandfather in Central Illinois and while attending Milligan College in Johnson City, TN I began hiking, mtn biking, camping, and fishing. After completing a bachelor's degree in English and History and a Master's degree in English, I embarked on a 10 year college basketball coaching career before leading teams in corporate sponsorship sales, marketing, and advertising for 10 years. In 2019 I left corporate America to get my personal passions more aligned with my professional pursuits and became the Executive Director of Catawba Riverkeeper, where I still serve in addition to my work here at the Garden.

My role at the Garden is to lead our team of outstanding professionals to develop a place where the public can experience and engage with nature in ways they've never imagined. I am also leading the organization into and through its Long Range Strategic Plan which will develop exciting new opportunities for the public to be inspired by the full 400 acres that the Garden occupies. In my dual role with Catawba Riverkeeper and Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, I am working to develop a model of shared leadership where both organizations can expand their mission work and together impact the environment in the Charlotte region in ways that neither could do alone.

The best part of my job here at the Garden is the opportunity to empower passionate professionals with the tools and resources they need to make a difference in their world. There is no more beautiful place to call an office in the Carolinas and I am grateful to have the opportunity to help re-imagine what it can mean to the community.

Preserving the Heritage Oaks: Innovative Tree-Root Crossing Solution on Wake Forest Campus

Kimberly Barb, PLA, ASLA, LEED AP BD+C

Kimberly Barb is Partner and Senior Project Manager at Stimmel Associates, a design and engineering firm with Landscape Architecture, Civil Engineering, and Land Planning expertise based out of Winston-Salem. Kimberly Barb has over three decades of experience working at Stimmel, with an emphasis on courtyards, streetscapes, amenity design, and landscape architecture. Throughout her career, she has sought out and implemented design solutions that are sustainable, creative, and functional within specific project parameters.

Jason Philbin, PE

Jason Philbin is the President of PermaTrak North America, a no-maintenance concrete boardwalk system. Jason is currently a member of ASHE, ASCE and ASLA. He has held each of the officer positions with the Southern Branch of the North Carolina Section of ASCE. Jason's passion for the outdoors has him enjoying greenways wherever he travels and while training for his hobby, Ironman Triathlons. A registered P.E. in 35 states, Jason holds a BSCE and an MSCE from the University of Kentucky.

Trail Signage: Improve Wayfinding and Branding

Spencer Finch, PE

Spencer is an engineering leader with 23 years of experience. His distinctive set of skills and expertise includes transportation engineering (Complete Streets and bicycle and pedestrian facility planning and design); environmental engineering and due diligence; green stormwater infrastructure planning and design; environmental, transportation and natural resources permitting; and sustainable infrastructure. Spencer's experience covers not only planning and engineering, but also strategic guidance, program management, business development, and team-building and management. He has expertise in grant writing/grant management, helping projects secure funding at early stages of development and advance through subsequent stages.

Stephen Bzomowski, AICP

Steve is a Planner in Alta's Durham office focusing on active transportation and open space planning across numerous contexts at the local, regional, and statewide level. He has a diverse skill set in GIS, writing, field and remote analysis, public engagement, and project management. Steve also has international experience and greatly values the diverse perspectives that each endeavor reveals in communities at home and abroad. He is highly motivated to find and focus realistic solutions that foster community innovation and lead to active, diverse, and prosperous places.

Brittnay Brown – Carolina Thread Trail

Project Manager for the Catawba Lands Conservancy and Carolina Thread Trail. Brittnay serves as project manager for the Carolina Thread Trail's new signage program. She administers the overall effort including community coordination, design, financial management, contractor management. Brittnay has a background in land conservation and trail development having served in the past as the Executive Director of the Nation Ford Land Trust in York County, SC and served as an environmental planner with York County Office of Planning and Development.

Charlotte's Urban Arboretum Trail: Preservations, Partnerships and Placemaking

Tim Porter

Tim serves as Chief Urban Forester for the City of Charlotte and staff lead for the City's tree canopy policy initiatives. He also serves as Division Manager for the City's Community Tree Canopy Preservation Division and manages a team of urban foresters responsible for implementing Charlotte's tree-related development requirements and preservation programs. Tim has also worked as a community forester with the Urban Ecology Institute in Boston, MA and as a research assistant with the U.S Forest Service's Norther Research Station. He graduated from New York State's College of Environmental Science & Forestry with a masters in Forest & Natural Resource Management. Tim lives in Fort Mill, SC with his wife and two children.

Laura Bandara

Laura is project manager and urban designer in Charlotte's Urban Design Center, where she leads placemaking and urban design along the Urban Arboretum Trail. Her work focuses on the intersections between culture and ecology, with

the goal of reconnecting people and place. Prior to her current role, she managed Salt Lake City's Urban Forest Action Plan, an innovative effort to equitably plan and design the Urban Forest in the public interest. Laura has a BA in Cultural Studies from Hampshire College, and a Master of Landscape Architecture from the University of Virginia.

Design and Construction of the Great Falls Portage Trail Project

Brian Couture

Brian Couture has been supporting the Duke Energy Recreation Team as a consultant for over 15 years. Brian holds a B.S. Civil Engineering degree and MBA from Ohio University and a M.S. Engineering Management from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, is a Professional Engineer registered in Ohio, West Virginia, North and South Carolina and is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Christy Churchill

Christy Churchill is a Recreation Planner and Hydro Compliance Project Manager in Duke Energy's Water Strategy, Hydro Licensing & Lake Services group. She is responsible for advancing, implementing and maintaining the company's federal compliance activities related to public recreation facilities, trail planning, land management, and cultural resources. Christy holds B.A. Architecture degree from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, is a Landscape Architect registered in North and South Carolina and is a LEED Green Associate. Christy has been with Duke Energy for 13 years. Prior to working at Duke, Christy was a Senior Associate at LandDesign for 15 years working with private developers and specialized in the design and construction of high end residential communities.

The World Speaks Trails: Lessons and Tales from a Trail-Builder's Time Abroad

Craig Brickser

Craig possesses a lifelong passion for bringing communities together through trail development. This passion ultimately led him to pursue a master's degree in urban planning, with a specialization in land use planning from Florida State University. Craig has nearly a decade of experience designing, planning, and constructing natural surface trail systems for non-profit organizations such as IMBA and the Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance, as well as local governments across the U.S.

The Seam: Master Planning the 50+ Mile Trail

Matt Weschler, PE, LEED AP

Matt Weschler is a civil engineer and active transportation planner working as a studio leader and associate at LandDesign. As a bike commuter and avid outdoor enthusiast, Matt is a proponent of providing safe and equitable active transportation alternatives for the communities he works with. His notable projects include Ballantyne Reimagined and associated McAlpine Creek greenway connector in South Charlotte, the Bell Tower Green in Salisbury, NC and the Red Ventures Multi-family project in Lancaster, SC. Matt is completing his masters in geography at UNCC where he is developing analytical tools to predict pedestrian and bike activity in response to new development.

Emily Condon, PLA, ASLA

Emily is a landscape architect with a background in community planning and active transportation. Her work largely focuses on the creation of vibrant, walkable, and versatile corridors in both urban and rural contexts along the entire East Coast – the Silver Line Rail Trail and Cross Charlotte Trail are two segments she has worked on that overlap with CTT, among many other streetscape, greenway, and linear park projects. These projects are executed through intense public involvement and outreach strategies, using her expertise in graphic representation, and designing through charrette to refine ideas into community-driven solutions. Emily also serves on the Board of Directors of Partners for Parks, a Mecklenburg County-based non-profit dedicated to the preservation, advocacy, and enhancement of public open spaces, trails, parks, recreation, and active play. Emily was named an Emerging City Champion by the Knight Foundation and 880 Cities in 2020.

Curtis Bridges, AICP

Curtis Bridges is a database and active transportation planner at CRTPO and planning project coordinator for the City of Charlotte. He has over 20 years of experience preparing transportation master plans, coordinating active transportation projects, analyzing documents for adoption by local and regional planning bodies, and leading steering committees to develop visions for future mobility in the Charlotte metropolitan area.

Will Washam

Will Washam is a Transportation and Land Use Planner working for the Town of Mooresville, NC. Over his 11 year career, Will has helped deliver regionally significant bikeway projects and push forward alternative transportation in the Charlotte metro. Outside of local government planning, Will dedicates many hours to volunteer trail design and construction through the Tarheel Trailblazers, a 501©3 mountain bike advocacy non-profit.

Katie Lloyd, PLA, ASLA

Katie Lloyd is a Professional Landscape Architect with an academic background in both Fine Arts (BFA, Winthrop University) and Landscape Architecture (MLA, Clemson University). She serves as a Senior Planner for the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department helping to plan and implement park and greenway projects across the County. Prior to joining Mecklenburg County, she worked as a consultant designing active transportation and greenway trail projects throughout the US.

John Cock, AICP

With experience in local government, private, and nonprofit sectors, John has worked with communities of all sizes across the southeastern and southern U.S. He has developed expertise in the areas of comprehensive and community planning; land use and transportation integration; Smart Growth policy, regulatory, and urban design standards; active and sustainable transportation and mobility planning; planning and design for complete street and trail corridors; streetscape and roadway design principles for walkable and transit-friendly communities and corridors; transit station area and new mobility planning; grant writing; project management; strategic planning and group facilitation. His primary CTT access points are in Davidson North Carolina, including the future Seam Trail.

Achieving the Great Trails State Vision in NC: Implementing the Great Trails State Plan and Expanding Funding Opportunities for Trails through Advocacy and Year of the Trail

Stephen Bzomowski, AICP

Steve is a Planner in Alta's Durham office focusing on active transportation and open space planning across numerous contexts at the local, regional, and statewide level. He has a diverse skill set in GIS, writing, field and remote analysis, public engagement, and project management. Steve also has international experience and greatly values the diverse perspectives that each endeavor reveals in communities at home and abroad. He is highly motivated to find and focus realistic solutions that foster community innovation and lead to active, diverse, and prosperous places.

Palmer McIntyre

As Coordinator for the North Carolina Great Trails State Coalition and Director for the 2023 NC Year of the Trail campaign, Palmer has been leading a statewide movement to raise the profile of trails and secure state investment. Her normal day job is working as a Conservation Planner with Piedmont Land Conservancy where she manages projects and helps lead a regional trails initiative called Piedmont Legacy Trails. She first joined the Piedmont Land Conservancy in 1996 as the Program Manager and has served in a variety of roles for the organization, including Executive Director, Board member and contractor. Palmer has a Masters of Regional Planning from UNC-CH. She served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in West Africa in the 1990s. Palmer and her husband have three children and she enjoys hiking, gardening, volunteering in schools, and spending time on their Ashe County farm, which is forever protected by a conservation easement. She is co-authoring *Trails and Treats*, a trail guide featuring 30 trails across the mountain and piedmont regions of North Carolina paired with local eats.

Hart Evans

Hart is a multimodal transportation planner, who currently works as the Statewide Planning and Programming Manager for NCDOT's Integrated Mobility Division. He has a background in multimodal planning, GIS analysis, public involvement, and mass transit projects. In his current role, Hart advocates for complete streets and multimodal facilities, manages trail feasibility studies, and oversees all statewide planning efforts and the state's intercity bus program. Hart works with various municipalities and organizations throughout the state, serving as a technical resource for multimodal design guidance and state policies and procedures.

Allison Anolik

Allison serves as the funding advisory services lead and a senior transportation planner in McAdams' Transportation department. With 17 years of experience and a background in environmental planning, transportation planning and geographic information systems (GIS), she brings a deep understanding of the project development and delivery process and how to obtain funding for infrastructure projects. Allison tracks funding opportunities, performs funding scans to match projects to programs for which they are most competitive, leads the development of grant applications for discretionary programs and helps administer grant-funded projects. She assists a variety of municipal clients and state departments of transportation obtain funding through competitive programs to improve mobility and create safer and more equitable communities; to date she has been instrumental in obtaining over \$50 million in federal funding for transportation projects in the State of North Carolina.

Perspectives on Trail Art - Panel

Dabney Sanders

Dabney works as the Project Manager for the Downtown Greenway – a collaborative project of Action Greensboro and the City of Greensboro. Action Greensboro is a nonprofit organization of foundations dedicated to projects that enhance business recruitment efforts and community vitality in Greensboro. As project manager of the Downtown Greenway, Dabney oversees & coordinates all activities related to the creation of the \$50 million, 4-mile loop including design, fundraising, construction, communications, and public art.

In addition to her work, Dabney is involved in several volunteer activities. She is the Chair of the Board of the Greensboro Literary Organization that produces the annual festival Greensboro Bound and partners with Guilford County Schools to bring authors and books into the schools. In addition, she serves on the board of the Eastern Music Festival, the Public Art Advisory Committee for the Piedmont Triad International Airport, and Light the Way Capital Campaign committee for UNCG's College of Visual and Performing Arts. She is past Chair of the Triad Stage Board of Trustees. She is a former member of the Weatherspoon Art Museum Association Board and is a former member and President of the Board of Green Hill Center for North Carolina Art and the Public Art Endowment Steering Committee at the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro. Dabney has served as committee member and chair of numerous fundraising events for a variety of non-profit organizations. Dabney has a passion for food, is a self-taught cook, and has cooked professionally in the past, but now enjoys entertaining for friends, family, and to support community organizations.

Shane Prisby

Shane Prisby is the Trails Program Director for Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina. Since 2010, he has built and managed trail systems for non-profit organizations and government agencies in Vermont and North Carolina. Shane has served as the project manager for two North Carolina State Trails, chair of the Vermont Trails & Greenways Council, and as a founding steering committee member of the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative.

Michael Applegate

Michael Applegate, CDME is the Director of Travel and Tourism for Gaston County, a position he has held since 2016. In this role he leads the effort to optimize Gaston County's brand experiences to drive visitation and partner economic growth. Before obtaining Gaston County's top tourism job, he spent nearly four years as the Senior Vice President of Sales and Destination Services for Cabarrus County CVB. Prior to joining Cabarrus County CVB's executive team, Michael spent nearly 10 years as the Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority's Director of Research. Applegate holds a Certified Destination Management Executive (CDME) credential and a Professional Destination Management (PDM) certificate from Destinations International, the industry's worldwide association. He serves on the board of directors for North Carolina Travel Industry Association, Destination Marketing Association of NC and North Carolina Sports Association and has served as chair of Destination International's Research Committee and as president of the Southeast Chapter of the Travel & Tourism Research Association.

May Barger

May is a professional public art consultant who studied Arts Leadership at Queens University. She is involved in many art projects in Gaston County. She currently serves as a board member for the Carolina Thread Trail and participates in the Matthews-Belk South Fork River Corridor Task Force, where she lends her expertise on the inclusion of public art. May also is involved with the Belmont Arts and Culture Visions Committee and Downtown Development, Belmont Abbey College's Visual and Performing Arts Committee, Gaston Community Foundation's Arts Selection Committee, Warlick YMCA Art Committee Chair among other art-oriented entities. In her free time, May enjoys oil painting, travel and writing.