

# **“Weaving Communities Together”**



## **CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL PRESENTATION TO**

The Bicycle and Pedestrian  
Coalition of York County

September 2, 2020





# MISSION

Creating a legacy of  
conservation and  
connectivity through a  
regional network of trails



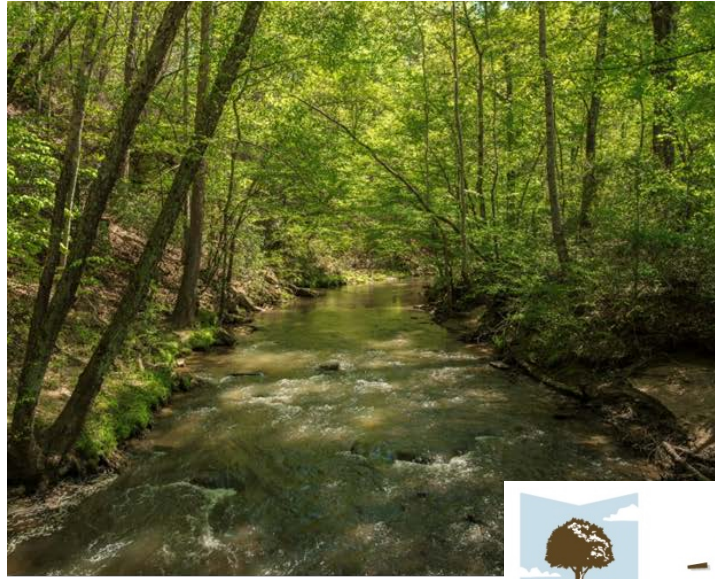




# CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL EST. 2007

Catawba Lands  
Conservancy is the lead  
agency for the Carolina  
Thread Trail

- Shared staff  
and resources



**- CATAWBA -**  
LANDS CONSERVANCY  
LAND | WATER | FARMS | NATURE



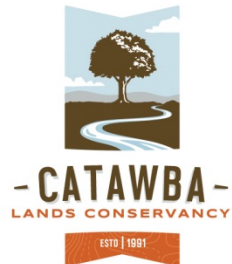




## **HISTORY - “CONNECTING LIVES TO NATURE”**



- **Catawba Lands Conservancy is the local land trust dedicated to saving land and connecting lives to nature**
- **Lead agency for the Carolina Thread Trail**
- **Carolina Thread Trail - non-profit leading the effort to create an interconnected trail system throughout 15 counties**
- **Catalyst for conservation - trails facilitate open space and permanent land protection**





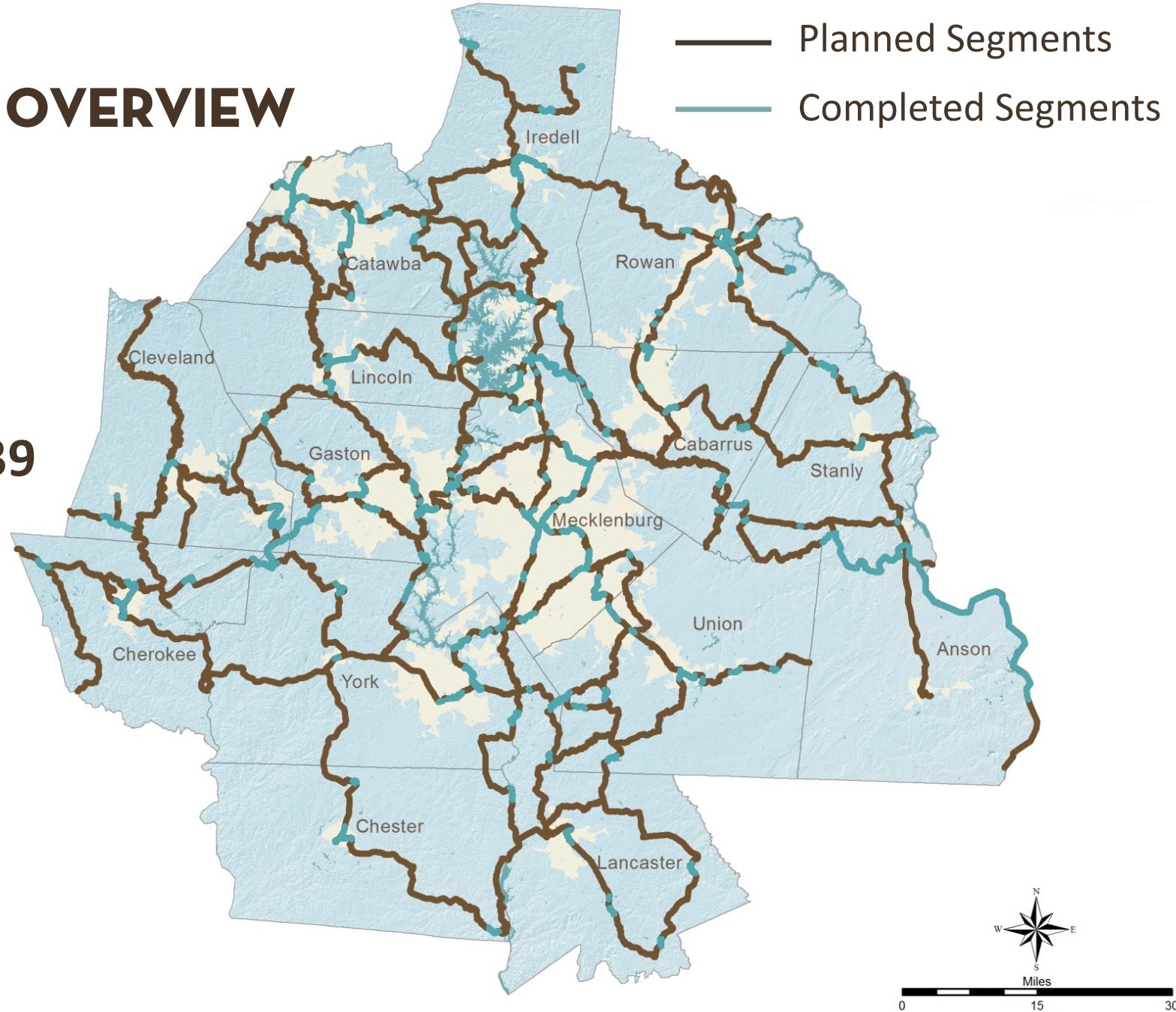
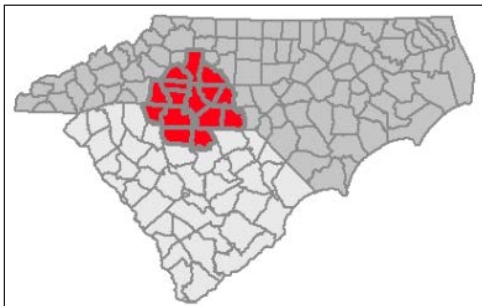
ORIGINAL VISION -  
500 MILES





# CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL OVERVIEW

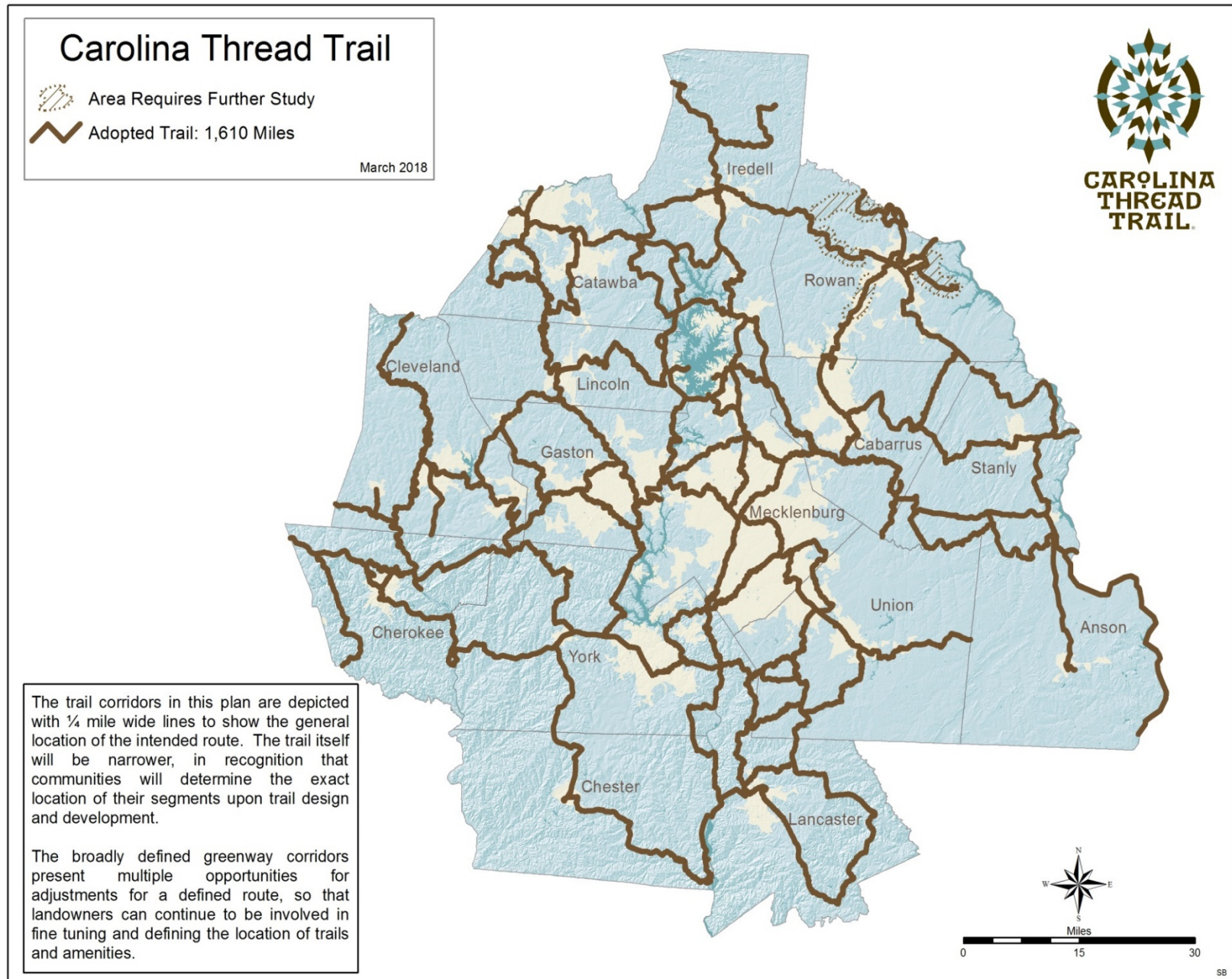
- Planned Miles: **1,610**
- Completed Miles: **300**
- York County Miles: **31.39**
- Additional Blueway Miles: **180**





# THREAD TRAIL VISION

- 2 States
- 15 Counties
- 1610 Planned Miles
  - Trails
  - Greenways
  - Blueways







## THREAD TRAIL'S ROLE - CATALYTIC

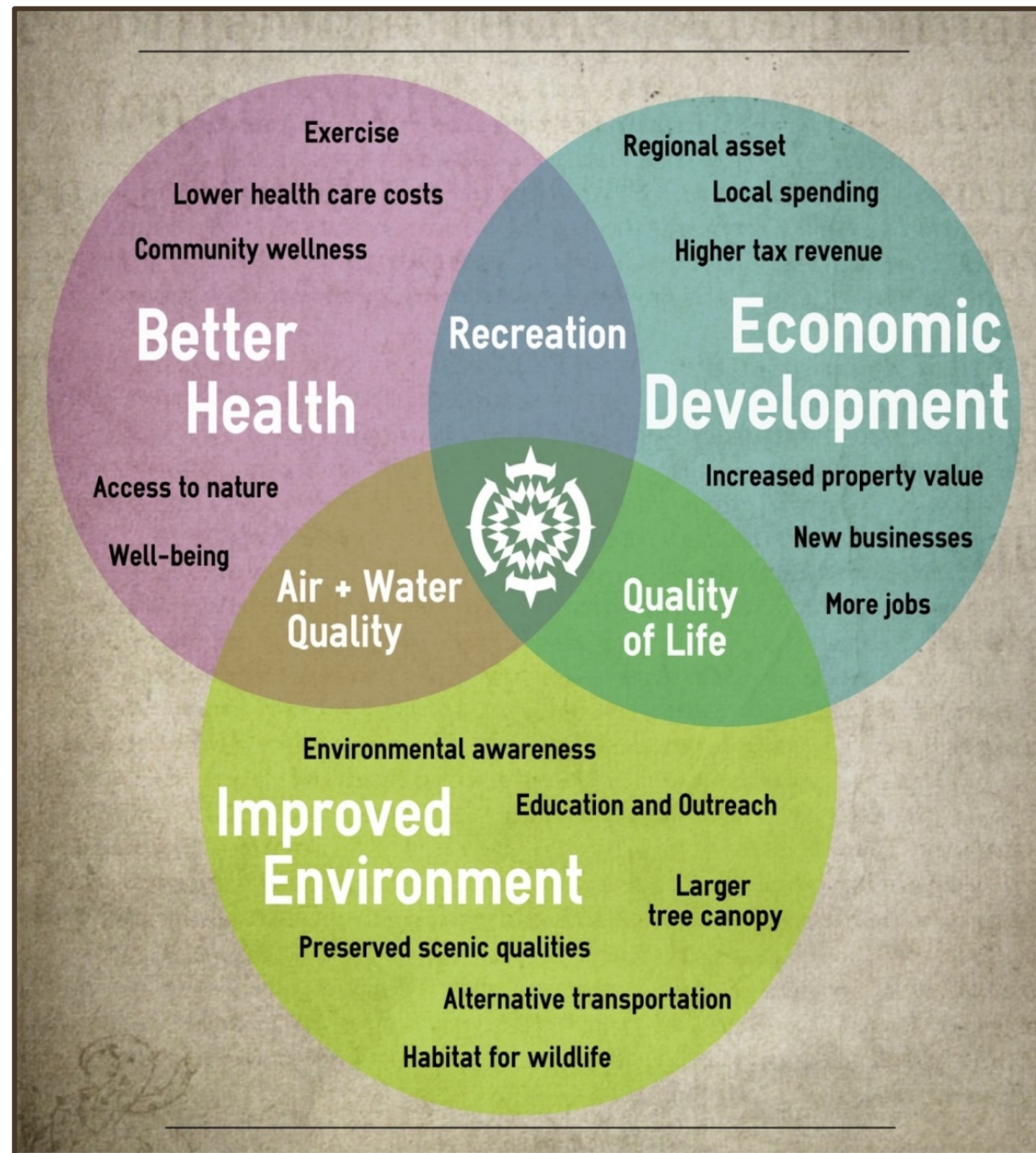


- **Promote a regional vision of connectivity**
- **Facilitate communities working together**
- **Provide technical education & support to community partners**
- **Provide grants to plan, acquire land and build trails**
- **Seek local, regional, state, and national funds**





# TRAIL BENEFITS







## FOUNDING AND CONTINUING PARTNERS



**Bank of America**



**C.D. Spangler Foundation**

**TURNER FAMILY  
FOUNDATION**  
a supporting foundation for the  
Foundation For The Carolinas







# YORK COUNTY MASTER PLAN

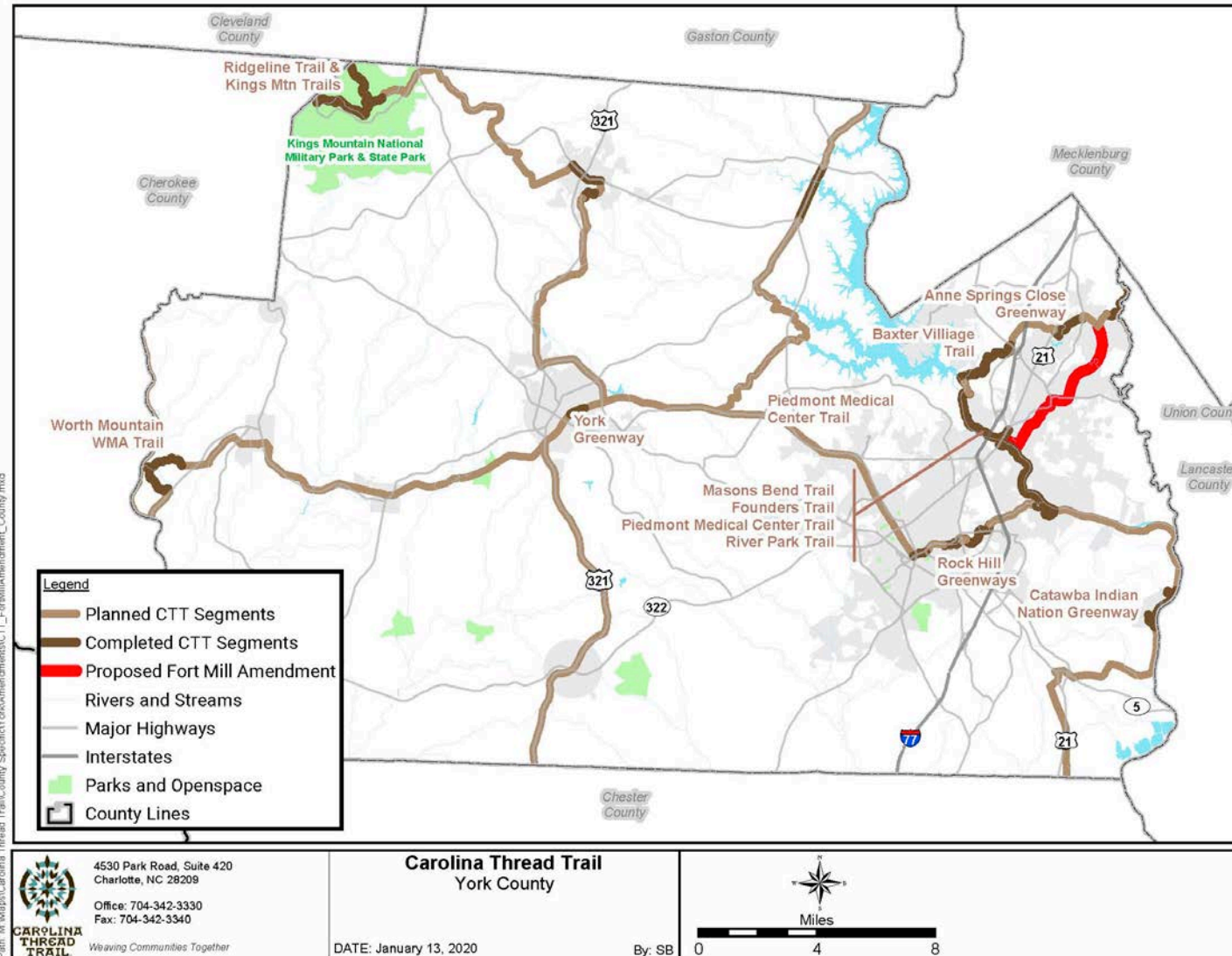
- ❖ 225 miles of existing and potential trails in Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan
- ❖ 31.39 existing trail miles (greenways, local trails, and sidewalks)







# YORK COUNTY MASTER PLAN- AMENDMENT



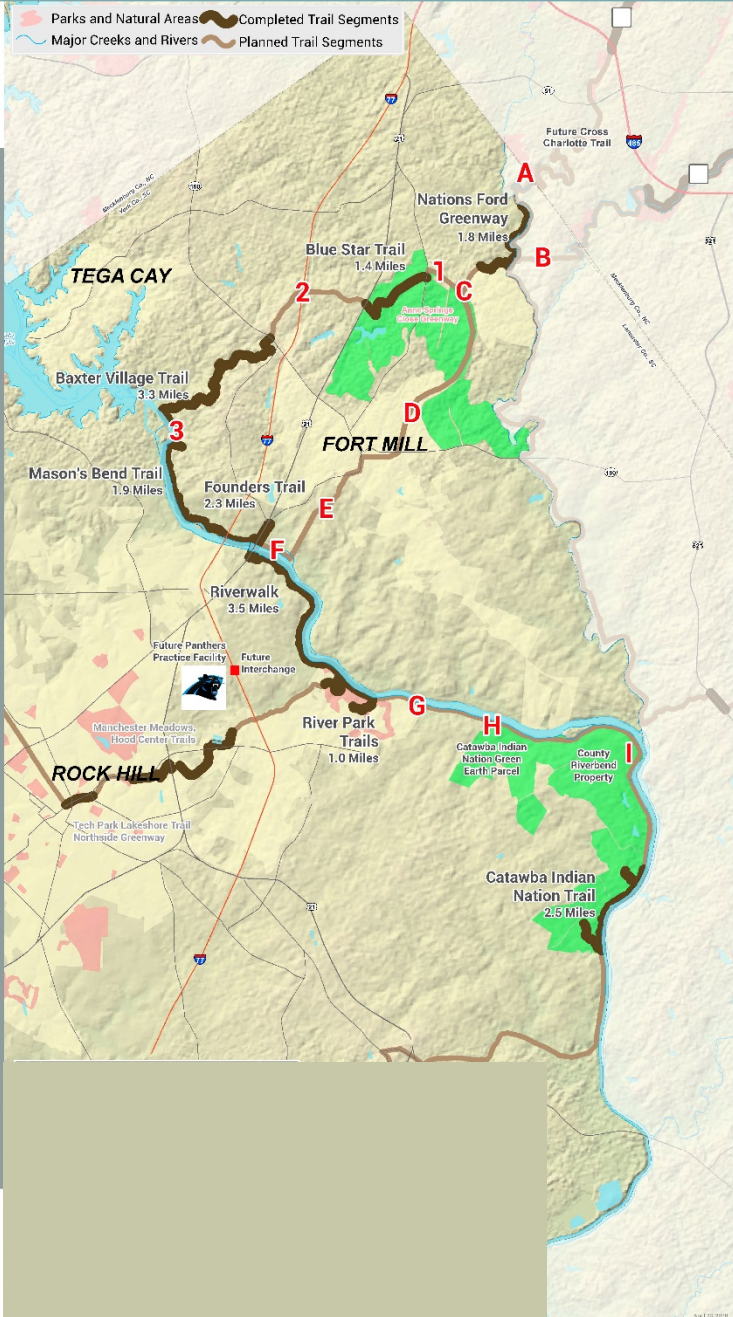
- Master Plan Amendment Process
- Locally Driven
- Strategic opportunity to link regional destinations
- ASCG to Downtown Fort Mill





# Carolina Thread Trail Gap Assessment

York County



## YORK COUNTY GAP ANALYSIS

- Identifying strategic corridors
- Build upon local momentum
- Add mileage to existing trail
- Partnerships and key stakeholders are critical








# TRAILS IN YORK COUNTY



# BAXTER VILLAGE TRAIL



## Carolina Thread Trail Map

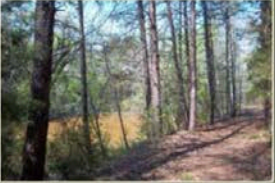
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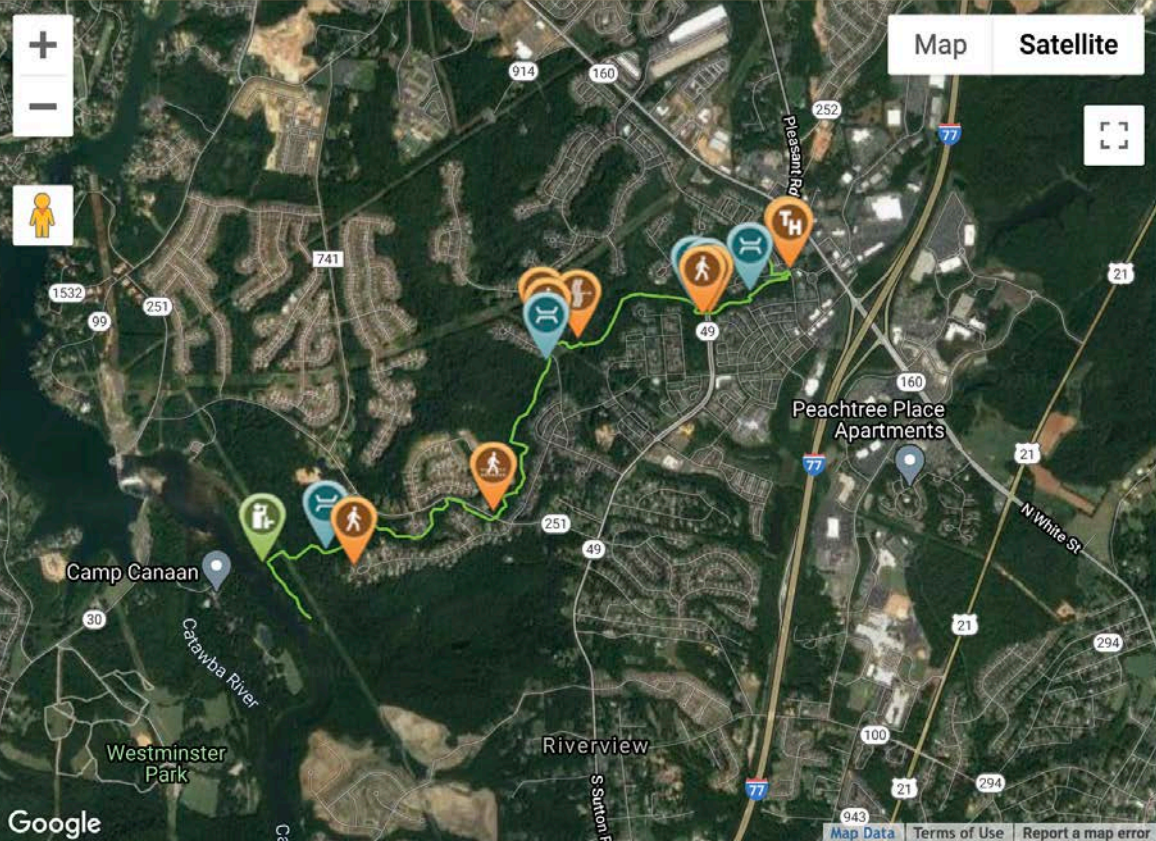
### Baxter Village Trail



The Baxter Village Trail is part of a 9-mile network of trails within the Baxter Village community. This segment of the Thread Trail trail is moderately hilly and features several streams along its length.

#### Quick Facts

Trail Uses	Walking / Hiking / Running Mountain Biking
Location	Fort Mill (SC)
Difficulty	Moderate
Length	3.3 miles, One Way
Surface	Natural surface Boardwalk Sidewalk Pavement
Fees	No
Pets	Permitted on leash
Motorized vehicles	Not Permitted
ADA	No



Map Satellite

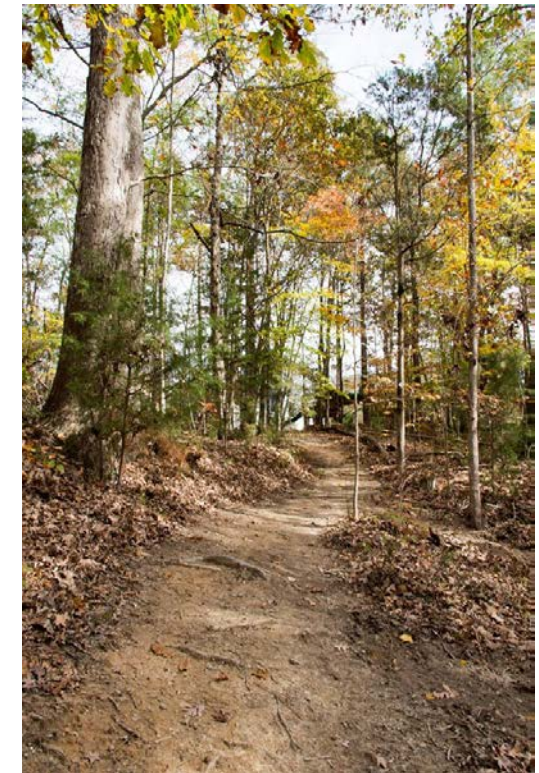
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# BAXTER VILLAGE TRAIL

Fort Mill, SC


3.3 miles

Natural Surface Trail





# FOUNDERS TRAIL




## Carolina Thread Trail Map

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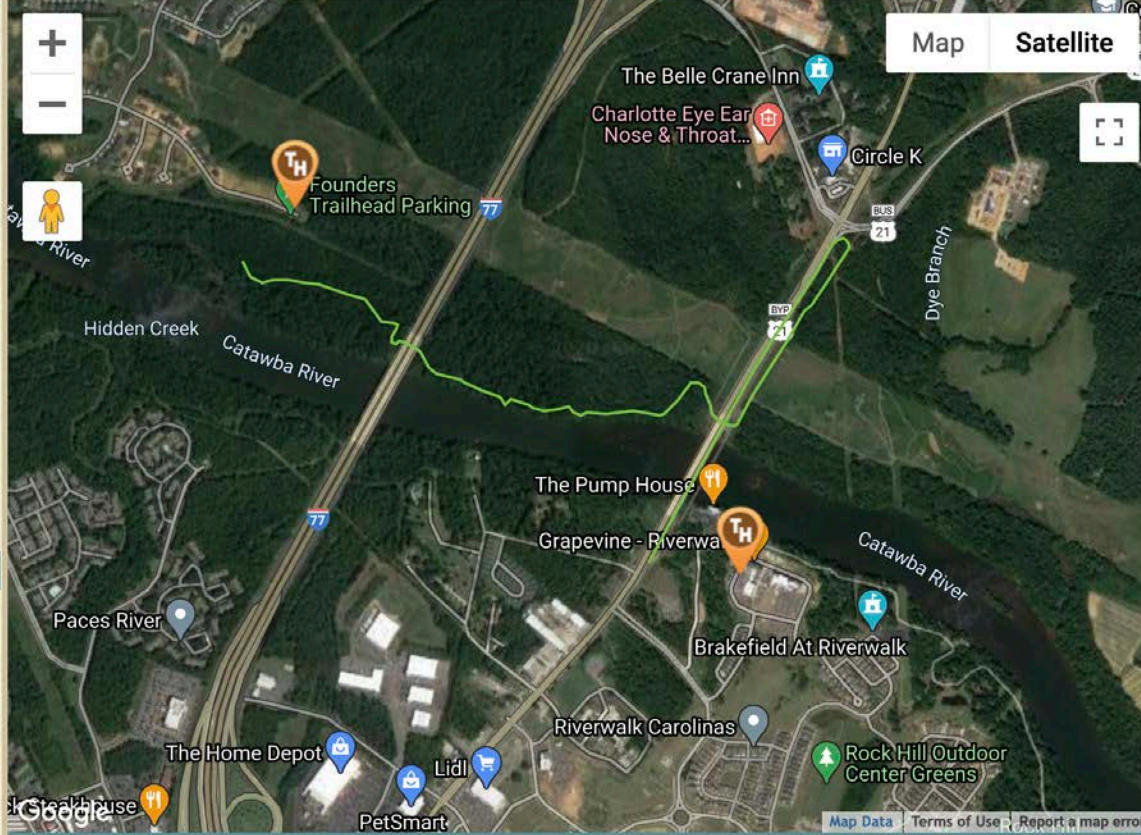
### Founders Trail



The Founders Trail is a beautiful natural surface trail along the Catawba River with a sidewalk connection to the Riverwalk: Piedmont Medical Center Trail and River Park.

#### Quick Facts

Trail Uses	Walking / Hiking / Running Mountain Biking
Location	Fort Mill (SC) Rock Hill (SC)
Difficulty	Easy
Length	2.3 miles, One Way
Surface	Gravel/ Crushed stone Natural surface



Map Satellite

Founders Trailhead Parking

Hidden Creek

Catawba River

The Belle Crane Inn

Charlotte Eye Ear Nose & Throat...

Circle K

Dye Branch

The Pump House

Grapevine - Riverwa

Paces River

Brakefield At Riverwalk

Riverwalk Carolinas

Rock Hill Outdoor Center Greens

The Home Depot

Lidl

PetSmart

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# FOUNDERS TRAIL

Rock Hill & Fort Mill, SC


2.3 Miles

Natural Surface Trail





# RIVERWALK: PIEDMONT MEDICAL CENTER TRAIL



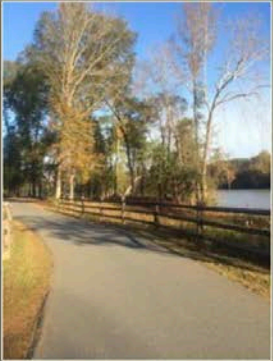
## Carolina Thread Trail Map

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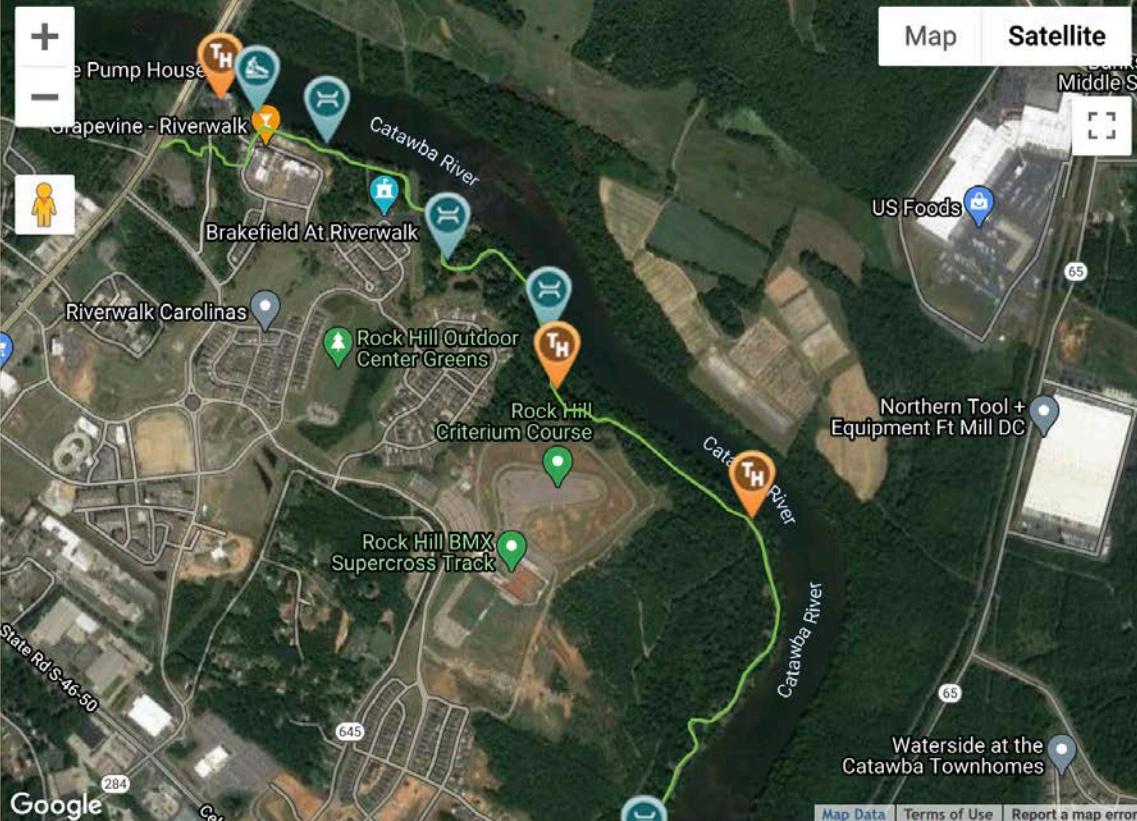
### Riverwalk: Piedmont Medical Center Trail



This greenway runs beside the Riverwalk community and connects south to River Park. The paved trail provides an enjoyable walk, run or bike along the banks of the Catawba River.

#### Quick Facts

Trail Uses	Walking / Hiking / Running Paved Surface Biking
Location	Fort Mill (SC) Rock Hill (SC)
Difficulty	Easy
Length	2.5 miles, One Way
Surface	Pavement



Map Satellite

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# RIVERWALK: PIEDMONT MEDICAL CENTER TR.

Rock Hill & Fort Mill, SC


2.5 Miles

Paved Surface Trail





# WATERFORD TRAIL



## Carolina Thread Trail Map


Walk. Bike. Hike. Run. Paddle.

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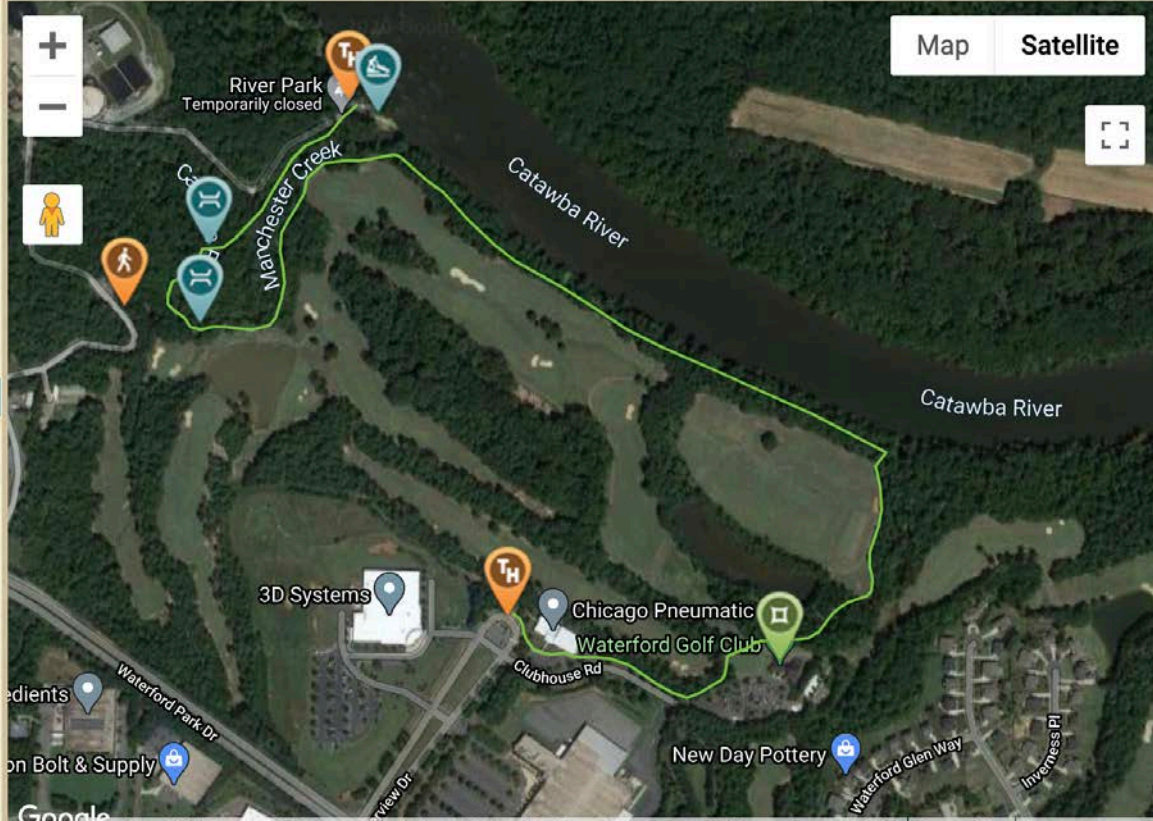
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### Waterford Trail



Waterford Trail meanders through the wooded section of River Park along Manchester Creek to the Waterford Trail and golf course.

Quick Facts	
Trail Uses	Walking / Hiking / Running
Location	Rock Hill (SC)
Difficulty	Easy
Length	1.5 miles, One Way
Surface	Natural surface Pavement
Fees	No
Pets	Permitted on leash
Motorized vehicles	Unknown
ADA Compliant	No
Number of parking spaces	20



Map Satellite

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# **WATERFORD TRAIL**

Rock Hill, SC


1.5 Miles

Natural Surface/Pavement





# MASONS BEND TRAIL



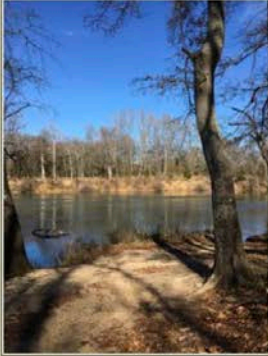
## Carolina Thread Trail Map

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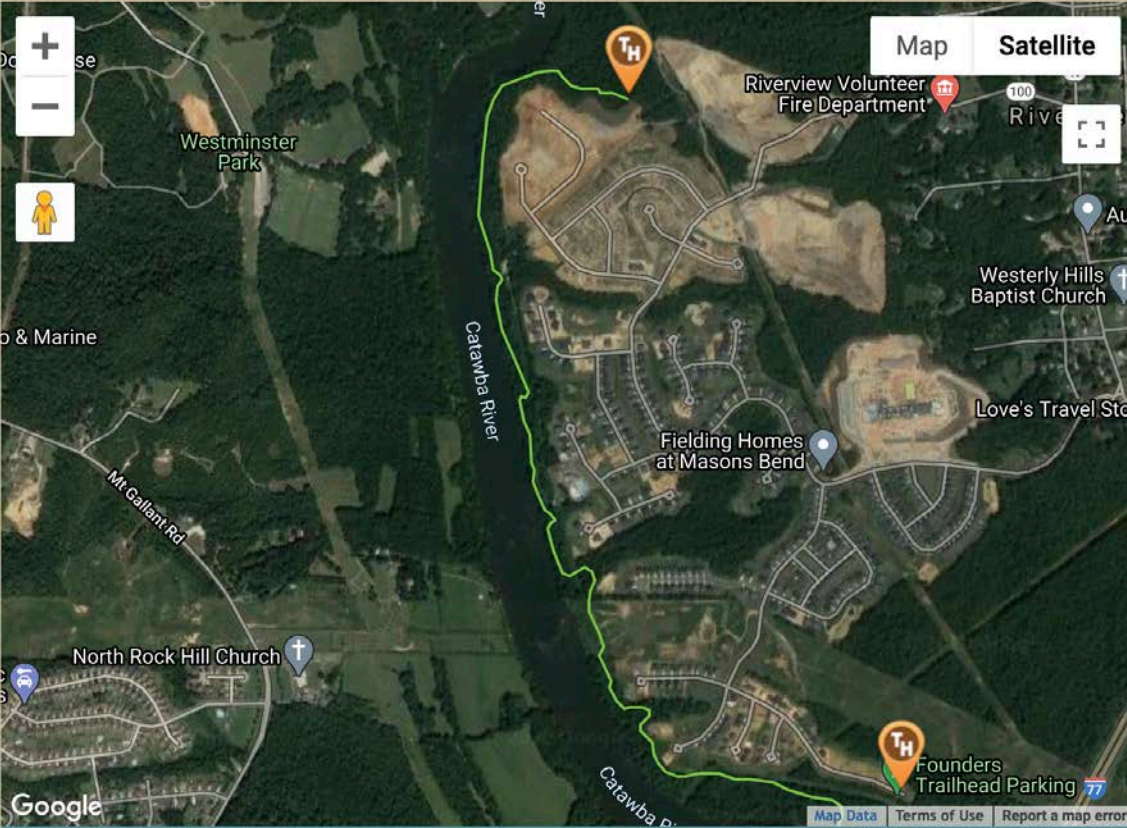
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### Masons Bend Trail



Masons Bend Trail is a natural surface trail that connects to the Founders Trail and then to Riverwalk along the Catawba River. It backs up to the Masons Bend neighborhood in Fort Mill, SC.

Quick Facts	
Trail Uses	Walking / Hiking / Running / Mountain Biking
Location	Fort Mill (SC)
Difficulty	Easy
Length	1.9 miles, One Way
Surface	Natural surface
Fees	No
Permitted	



Map Satellite

Westminster Park

Catawba River

Fielding Homes at Masons Bend

Founders Trailhead Parking

North Rock Hill Church

Riverview Volunteer Fire Department

Westerly Hills Baptist Church

Love's Travel Stop

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# MASONS BEND TRAIL

Fort Mill, SC

1.9 Miles

Natural Surface Trail








# BLUE STAR TRAIL AT ANNE SPRINGS CLOSE GREENWAY






## Carolina Thread Trail Map

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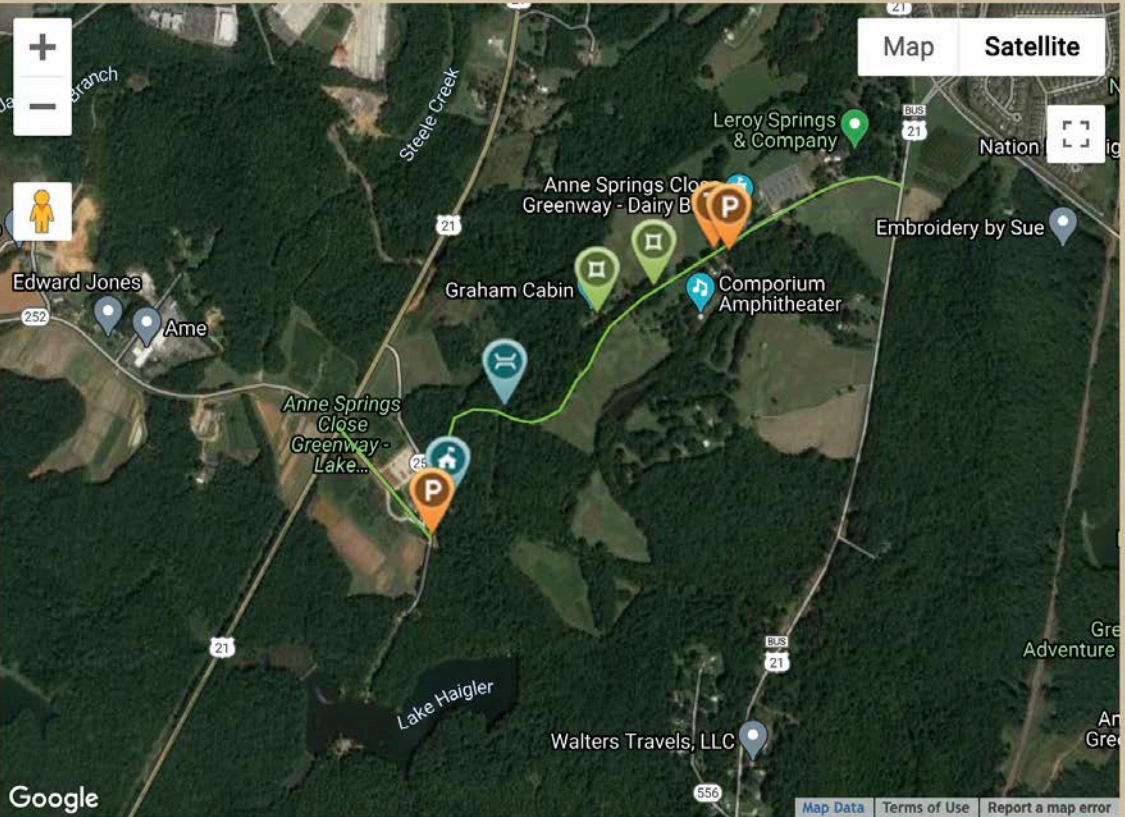
### Blue Star Trail



The Blue Star Trail is 7.2 miles long of which 1.4 miles is designated Thread Trail. The Blue Star Trail is part of the larger Anne Springs Close Greenway network of trails totaling 40 miles.

#### Quick Facts

Trail Uses	Walking / Hiking / Running Mountain Biking Horseback Riding
Location	Fort Mill (SC)
Difficulty	Easy
Length	1.4 miles, Network
Surface	Gravel/Crushed stone Natural surface Boardwalk Sidewalk Other
Fees	\$5/person
Pets	Permitted on leash



Map Satellite

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# **BLUE STAR TRAIL AT ANNE SPRINGS CLOSE GREENWAY**

Fort Mill, SC


1.4 Miles

Natural Surface/Mixed Surface Trail





# MANCHESTER MEADOWS PARK TRAIL



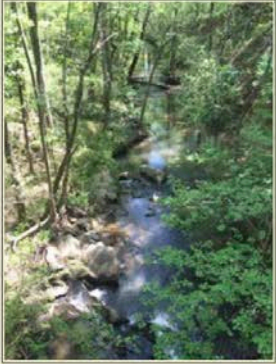
## Carolina Thread Trail Map

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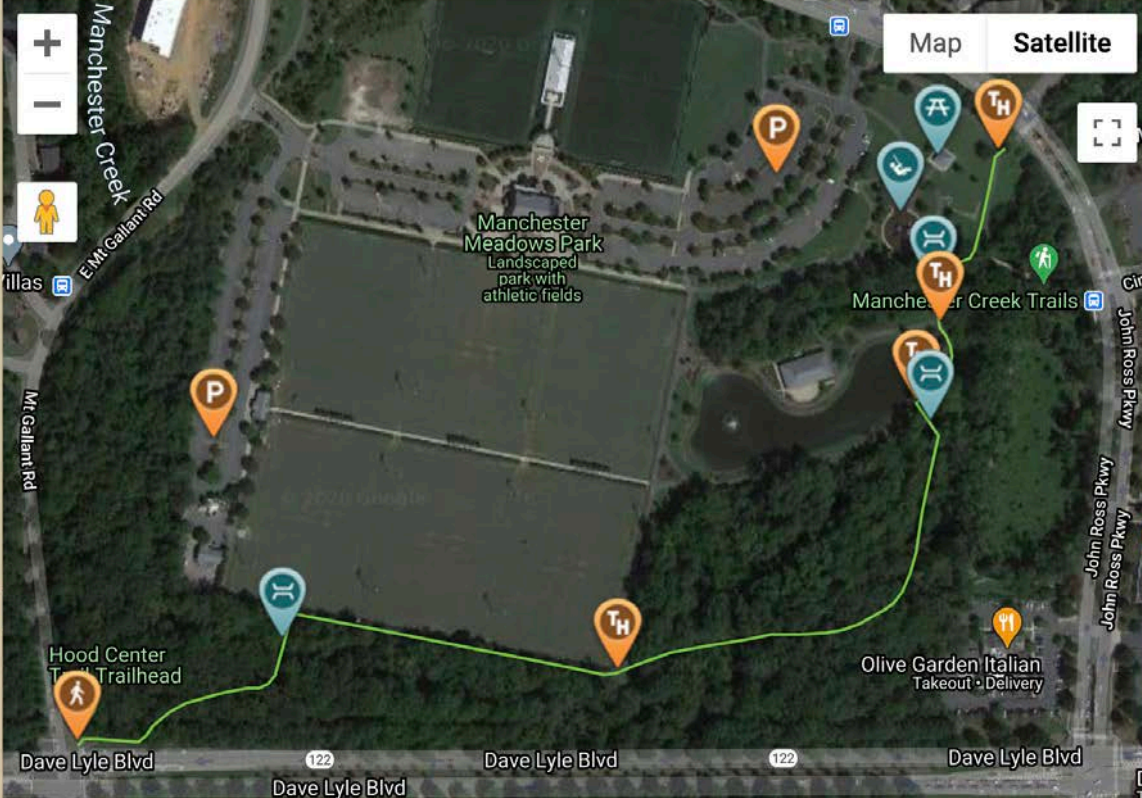
### Manchester Meadows Park Trail



This Thread Trail segment is part of a 1.1-mile loop greenway around Manchester Meadows' athletic fields off of Mt. Gallant Road. The trail provides access to athletic fields and a small playground within Manchester Meadows Park.

#### Quick Facts

Trail Uses	Walking / Hiking / Running Paved Surface Biking
Location	Rock Hill (SC)
Difficulty	Easy
Length	0.6 miles, Loop
Surface	Boardwalk Sidewalk



Map Satellite

Manchester Meadows Park  
Landscaped park with athletic fields

Manchester Creek Trails

Hood Center Trailhead

Olive Garden Italian  
Takeout • Delivery

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# MANCHESTER MEADOWS PARK TRAIL

Rock Hill, SC

0.6 miles

Paved surface





The background of the slide is a photograph of a river with two kayakers. The river is calm, reflecting the surrounding green trees. The kayakers are in the middle ground, one slightly ahead of the other. A large, semi-transparent orange overlay covers the center of the image. Within this overlay is a large, stylized geometric pattern of interlocking triangles and diamonds. The text 'TRAIL IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS' is centered in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

# TRAIL IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS







# CATALYTIC FUNDING

- Acquisition
- Corridor Planning
- Engineering and Design
- Construction (our favorite!!)

**Since it began - approx. \$6,000,000 awarded, which has helped to leverage other public and private funding for trails and land protection**







# CATALYTIC FUNDING

## Evaluation Factors:

- Location on priority corridor
  - Adds miles to existing segment
  - Collaboration and partnerships
  - Serves all members of the community
  - Project readiness
  - Public and private support
  - Trail maintenance
  - Project excellence
- **Focus on trail construction in priority corridors**
  - **Regional competitive process**
  - **Two application cycles per year**







# CTT 2020 GRANT IMPLEMENTATION RECIPIENTS

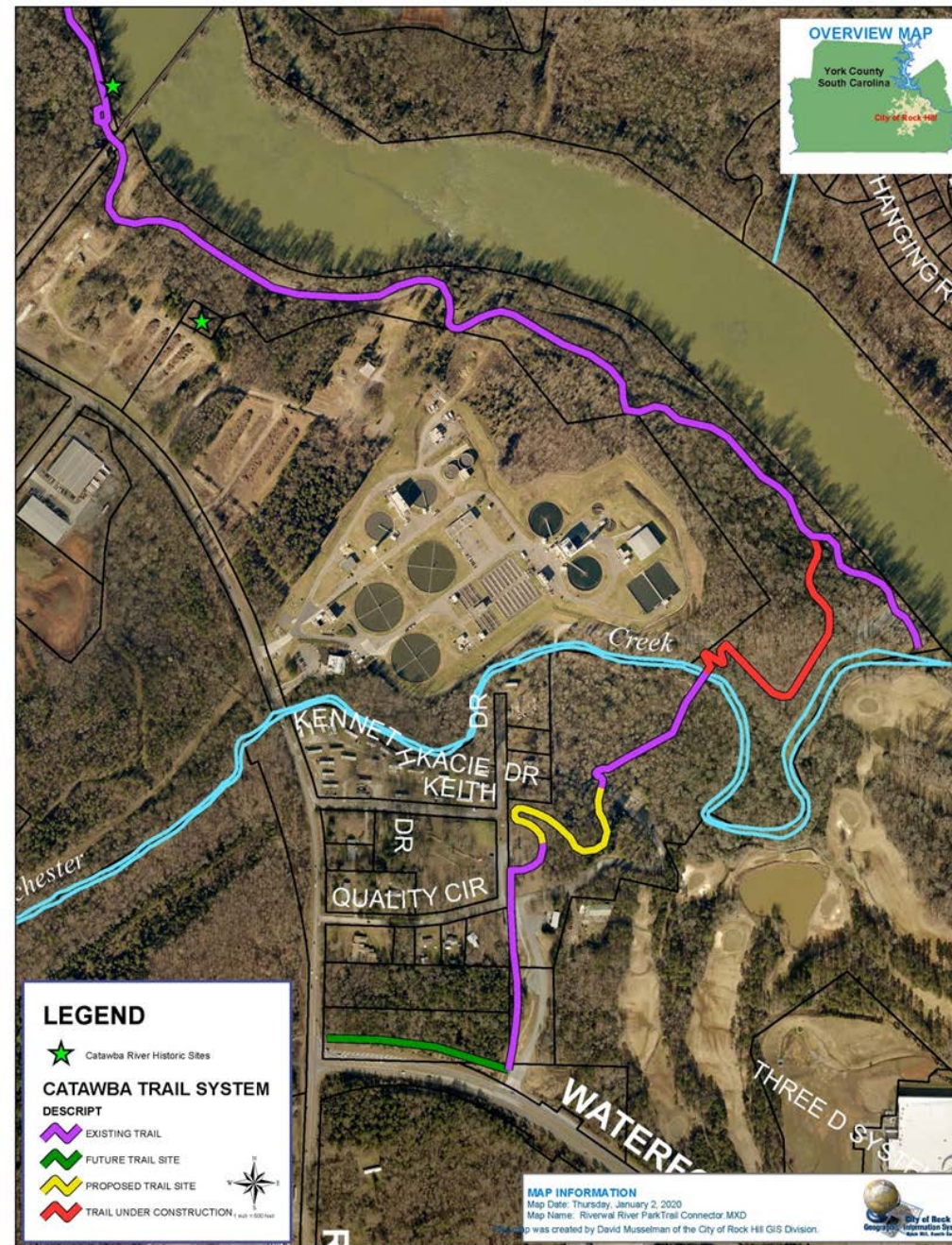
Applicant	County	Grant Type	Award Amount	Details
City of Belmont	Gaston	Design	\$25,000	Abbey Creek Greenway Design
Cherokee County Recreation District	Cherokee	Construction	\$45,000	Construction Overmountain Victory Trail Chesnee to Cowpens NMP
City of Gastonia	Gaston	Construction	\$45,000	Extension of Avon/ Catawba Greenway
City of Shelby	Cleveland	Construction	\$75,000	Suspension Bridge Construction First Broad River Trail
Cleveland County Water	Cleveland	Acquisition	\$40,000	Property Acquisition to Facilitate Trail
Catawba Lands Conservancy	Lincoln	Acquisition	\$40,000	Acquire Old Stumpy Preserve Facilitate Forney Creek Trail Extension
City of Rock Hill	York	Construction	\$50,000	Extension of Manchester Meadows Greenway
Tarheel Trailblazers	Gaston	Construction	\$38,000	Belmont to Cramerton Connection
Town of Marshville	Union	Construction	\$8,000	Trail Bridges and Signage Improvements
York County	York	Design	\$25,000	Trail Design on Riverbend (Bowater) Parcel
<b>Totals</b>			<b>\$391,000</b>	



## Proposed Catawba River Trail Connection

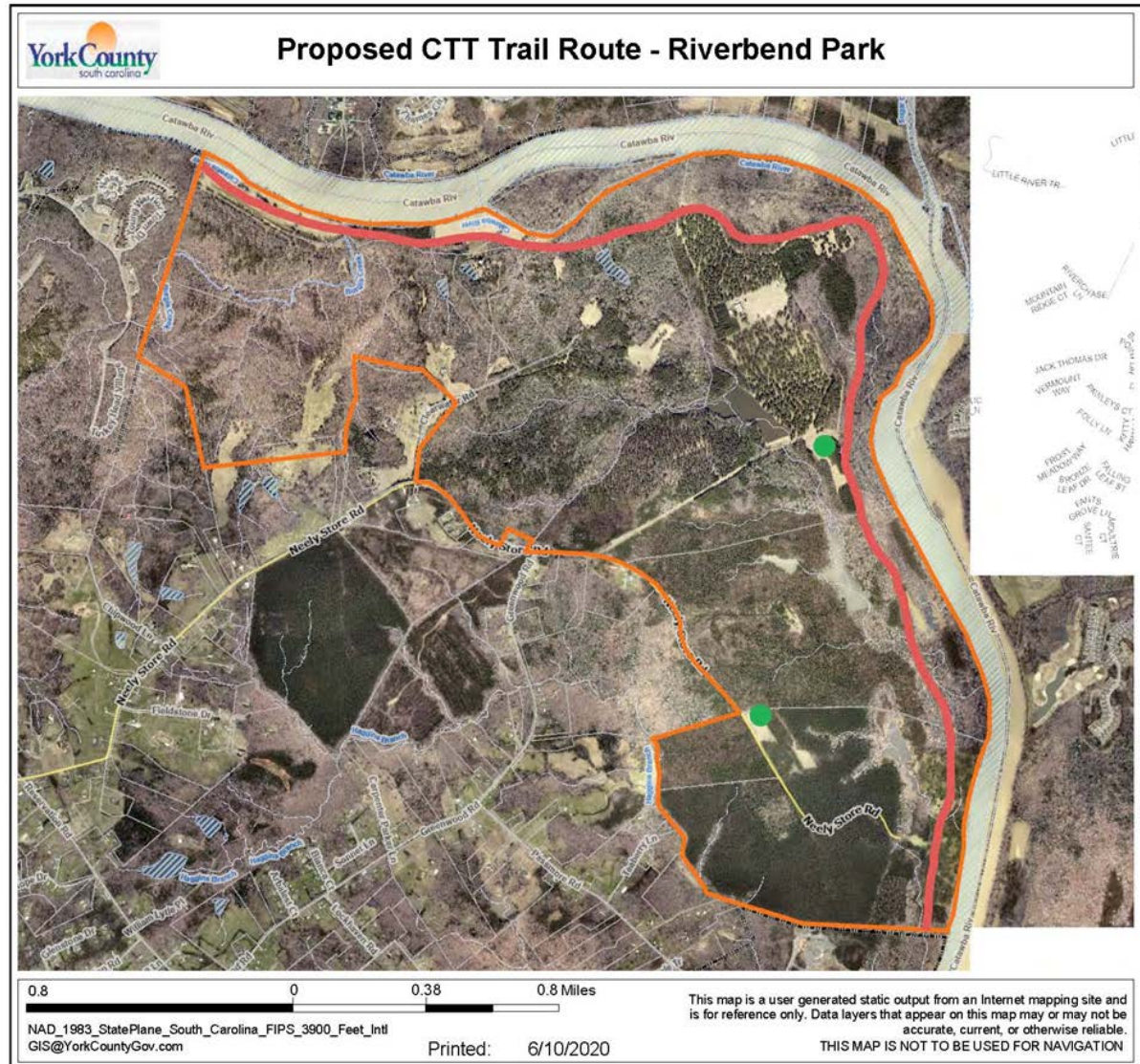
# ROCK HILL – MANCHESTER CREEK GREENWAY

- **\$50,000 – Construction**
- **Closes gap on connection between River Park and Red River Road – Paved Greenway**
- **Corridor eventually connects Manchester Meadows Park**
- **Potential connection to Panthers Facility**
- **Use of CTT funds in current phase under construction (red segment on map)**
- **Helps provide continuous connection to Piedmont Med Center Trail**





# YORK COUNTY - RIVERBEND PRESERVE TRAIL



- \$25,000 – Design
- 5 miles of trail on newly acquired 1900-acre property
- 8' wide natural surface shared-use trail
- High priority CTT Corridor along Catawba River
- Will connect to existing Catawba Indian Nation Trail
- Strategic segment; connections north to Rock Hill



# CTT SIGNAGE INITIATIVE



- “Unify” signage throughout CTT Region
- Current Signs are 10+ Years Old
- Consistency and Brand Recognition
- Pilot Program Underway – Gaston County
- User Group Evaluation
- Partnership with Local Community is Essential
- NOT Changing our Logo!!





# CTT SIGNAGE INITIATIVE





GET INVOLVED - TRAIL MASTERS





# GET INVOLVED - VOLUNTEER



**In a typical year:**  
(2020 has not been a typical year!)

- **30 public work days**  
(public, private, corporate)
- **~50 Programs**
- **4 special events**
- **1,200+ volunteers throughout**



# GET INVOLVED - VOLUNTEER





# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT





# GET INVOLVED - PROGRAMS





# OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

*Virtual Trail Forum  
December 3, 2020*





# REGIONAL ROUNDTABLES - STAY TUNED FOR LATE 2020 EARLY 2021





# TRAILS ON TAP

March 2019- Belmont, NC



- Gaston, Lincoln, Cleveland, and York Counties
- 45 attendees
- Natural Surface is the most preferred surface type
- Extend trails in Eastern Gaston County along South Fork River

July 2019- Waxhaw, NC



- Union, Lancaster, Chester, York, and Cherokee Counties
- 45 attendees
- Natural Surface is the most preferred surface type
- Extend trails in Eastern York County along the Catawba River





# UNIQUE MARKETING - CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL PALE ALE



- Blue Blaze Brewing
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Canning
- \$1,855 donation to CTT



# BECOME A SUPPORTER!

## Support the Carolina Thread Trail!

The Thread Trail is built through a public/private funding model. Private donations are leveraged with public funds to create catalytic community grants to plan and build trails, as well as support program expenses including maintaining the trails and keeping them clean.

Your support is essential to advancing the Thread Trail throughout our 15-county region, and as a thank you, donors receive swag as well as invitations to special events and exclusive outdoor outings!

*The Carolina Thread Trail is a 501c3 charitable organization and donations are tax-deductible.*

PLANNED GIVING OPTIONS

DONATE ONCE

GIVE MONTHLY

HONORARIUM/MEMORIAL

EVERY



DONATED

HAS BROUGHT IN (AVERAGE)







# QUESTIONS????

BRET BARONAK, DIRECTOR  
CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL

[BRET@CAROLINATHREADTRAIL.ORG](mailto:BRET@CAROLINATHREADTRAIL.ORG)

[www.carolinathreadtrail.org](http://www.carolinathreadtrail.org)

