FACT SHEET

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

BACKGROUND In 2005, Foundation For The Carolinas and more than 40 community and business leaders participated in a discovery process to identify our region’s most pressing environmental need. The process produced the vision of the Carolina Thread Trail, which launched in 2007.

PROJECT PARTNERS Catawba Lands Conservancy serves as the lead agency and Foundation For The Carolinas is the Thread Trail’s philanthropic partner. The Thread Trail is a model for regional collaboration involving local governments, businesses, community groups and the region’s land trusts.

FUNDING MODEL The Carolina Thread Trail was launched with a private capital campaign that continues to leverage local, state and federal funds. From this funding, implementation grants have been awarded and momentum is being created in communities across our footprint. Currently, there are 88 communities with connected, adopted master plans averaging 100 miles per county.

QUICK FACTS

$4.9 million in private grant awards to communities

15 counties with adopted Thread Trail master plans

88 local governments collaborating

260+ miles of trail and 170 miles of blueway open

THE THREAD’S ROLE

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

1. COMMUNITY SUPPORT Our team engages our communities in the planning and implementation of the Thread Trail, starting with countywide master planning. Once plans are adopted, we actively partner with communities on priority corridors to help them realize their vision for the Thread Trail.

2. FUNDING Through private fundraising efforts, the Thread Trail grants funds to communities for planning, design, land acquisition and construction of trail segments. We also assist communities in attracting public funding and other private grants.

3. EXPERTISE We enhance trail-building capacity across the region through our annual trail forum, a day of learning from experts and sharing best practices. We also provide mapping expertise to support the design and implementation of trails. By training volunteer leaders in sustainable trail building, The Thread coordinates a core of volunteers in building and maintaining natural surface trails.
The Thread Trail offers communities and more than two million people the benefits of:

- Alternative Transportation
- Economic Development
- Recreation
- Connectivity
- Health and Wellness
- Water Quality and Quantity
- Conservation Corridors
- Public Access
- Wildlife Habitat

**LEARN MORE**

carolinathreadtrail.org

To learn more about the Carolina Thread Trail go to our website, call 704.376.2556 or connect with us via social media.

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[©](http://threadtrail)

Become a member! Donate $50, $100 or $250 today for exclusive benefits

**FIND TRAILS**
carolinathreadtrailmap.org

**LAND TRUST PARTNERS**

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

Other land trust partners:

- Davidson Lands Conservancy
- Foothills Conservancy
- Catawba Valley Land Trust
- Land Trust for Central NC
- Nation Ford Land Trust

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