

CATAWBA LANDS CONSERVANCY

SPRING 2011 ❖ VOLUME XXI ❖ NUMBER 1

‘WE SPEAK FOR THE LAND’

Stories teach, inspire and compel us to think about our corner of the world in a broader context. In the ongoing series “We Speak for the Land,” we share the stories of people in our community who have a heartfelt connection with our local conserved lands. In this feature, we spotlight a landmark project made possible through the dedication of a committed group of people.

PRESERVING THE NATURAL WONDERS OF LAKE NORMAN

Lake Norman is a recreation haven that has attracted booming development along the shoreline and surrounding area. Set back from the main channel, a quiet cove offers sanctuary for mature forests, marshy tributaries, a heron fishing near the shoreline and the occasional osprey circling overhead.

This cove is part of more than 4 miles of Lake Norman shoreline and nearly 6 miles of stream, now permanently protected as part of the 719-acre Mountain Creek and Terrapin Creek conservation area in Catawba County.

“This project is really significant for the region because it’s one of the largest remaining pieces of land that is right on Lake Norman and the Catawba River,” said Kitty Barnes, Chair of the Catawba County Board of Commissioners and a long-time supporter of the project. The County worked with Catawba Lands Conservancy to purchase the Mountain Creek property and permanently conserve the land.

“What’s amazing about this place is that even on the busiest day on the lake, it’s quiet here,” said Mary George, a planner for Catawba County who has been instrumental in bringing the project to completion.

The conservation area also offers significant public benefit providing permanent protection of the region’s water quality. Lake Norman provides drinking water for residents from Huntersville to eastern Lincoln County, and also feeds into Mountain Island Lake, the primary drinking water source for nearly 1 million people in the Charlotte area.

“It’s very important that, both as a state and a region, we understand the importance of clean water,” said Stan Vaughn, a trustee for the North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF), which served as an instrumental funding partner in making this conservation project possible. “Land trusts are essential in talking about clean water as a primary benefit of land protection.”

Mountain Creek and Terrapin Creek also provide a large area of undisturbed wildlife habitat.



Deer tracks meander along the banks of Mountain Creek, a tributary of Lake Norman. Photo by Jeff Willhelm.

“From a wildlife perspective, both the size and the diversity of habitats make this property remarkable,” said Blair Rayfield, Parks Manager for Catawba County. These properties’ diverse habitats range from marshy wetlands, riverbeds and shoreline, to mature hardwood forest and open fields. Both sites provide habitats ideal for a number of priority animal species as identified by the North Carolina Wildlife Action Plan.

“It’s exciting to think about what species we might discover on this property over the coming seasons and years,” said Blair. “I wouldn’t be surprised to find state and federally significant species in residence which require a site of this size to thrive.”

“In the long term, Mountain Creek

will become an area of education and conservation,” said Kitty. “It will also have opportunities for people to canoe or kayak, and we’d like to be able to offer some primitive camping sites.”

The future environmental park has also been identified in Catawba County’s master plan to house a segment of the Carolina Thread Trail.

“Since this is such a large property, we can offer an extensive network of trails that will provide people the opportunity to see the variety of habitats within the park,” said Mary, citing approximately 28 miles of rough graded trails that will be available for public use once park facilities are built.

CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL WELCOMES PHILIP BLUMENTHAL AS NEW BOARD CHAIR

“A major focus for The Thread in 2010 was turning planned miles into trails where people can walk, bike, hike and connect with nature. At the close of the year, we had a total of 67 miles of trail now open for residents and visitors in our region.”

Read more in the Carolina Thread Trail’s 2010 Report to Communities following page 6.

Continued on Page 3

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FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Dear friends,

For the past seven years, Charlotte and the surrounding 15-county region have benefitted from Dave Cable's leadership as a spokesperson for the responsible stewardship of land and the environment. It is with genuine sadness and a profound respect for Dave's leadership over the past seven years that I announce Dave's decision to move away from his current role as executive director of Catawba Lands Conservancy and the Carolina Thread Trail.

This decision is one that Dave has reached on his own and only after a great deal of thought about his personal path forward and the evolving needs of the organization. Although he is passing the torch in the day-to-day operations as executive director, he remains fully

committed to both organizations and will continue to serve in an advisory role.

Dave's work over the last seven years has resulted in many transformative accomplishments for the good of our region and its communities. The Conservancy and The Thread boards, an incredible staff and team, and community supporters, all worked together during Dave's tenure to develop and strengthen partnerships across the region, paving the way for a regional vision of conservation, connectivity, recreation, and community programming.

Significant milestones under Dave's leadership include:

- Led the Conservancy to become one of the first nationally accredited land trusts
- Advocated for North Carolina's conservation policies and funding, including the state's critical Clean Water Management Trust Fund
- Doubled regional conserved lands to 10,700 acres permanently protected by the Conservancy, adding 5,300 acres during seven years

- Raised significant capital for land conservation efforts to support the Conservancy and the Carolina Thread Trail
- Broadened the reach of the Conservancy through collaborative leadership with organizations and communities throughout the region

On behalf of the Conservancy Board of Directors, The Thread's Governing Board and both organizations' staff, we want to express our deep gratitude to Dave for his leadership and commitment to both organizations, and we wish him the greatest of success in his future endeavors.

Please don't hesitate to contact the Conservancy with any questions you may have: 704-342-3330.

Sincerely,

Tommy Lee
2011 President

Board of Directors,
Catawba Lands Conservancy



VOLUNTEER AT NATUREFEST

Catawba Lands Conservancy's Redlair NatureFest celebration is just around the corner. On Saturday, April 30, the Conservancy will host this free family festival to celebrate the land, conservation and the great outdoors at Redlair Farm & Forest in Gaston County, as well as hold our annual meeting. In 2010 we had nearly 1,200 visitors who enjoyed guided hikes, live music, kids' activities, paddling on the

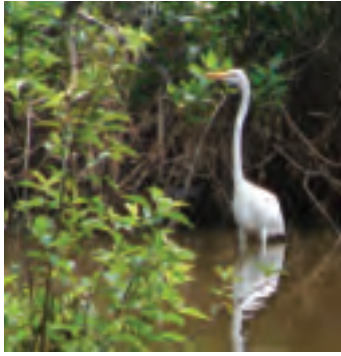
South Fork Catawba River and our inaugural Race for the Land 8k and half marathon.

We're seeking volunteers who are interested in helping to make this year an even bigger success. Volunteers lend a hand with set-up for the day, staff registration and information tables, direct parking, support race logistics, assist with kids' activities, and help to clean-up. There are a

variety of volunteer shift opportunities throughout the day, and all volunteers will receive a 2011 Redlair NatureFest t-shirt.

If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Amanda at 704-342-3330 ext. 215. Learn more about the numerous fun activities planned for this year's Redlair NatureFest on the next page. ■

SPEAK FOR THE LAND (CONT FROM PAGE 1)



An egret fishes on the banks of Mountain Creek.

THE POWER OF COLLABORATION AND PERSISTENCE

Formerly held by a division of Crescent Resources, the Mountain Creek site became available for purchase by Catawba County at a discounted price as part of Duke Energy's relicensing efforts. If it had not been conserved, the property

would likely have been developed with up to 300 home sites.

The County was able to purchase Mountain Creek by working with the Conservancy to secure a CWMTF grant. Both the Conservancy and Catawba County were vocal advocates for the project, and invited Clean Water trustees to visit the potential conservation area.

"During the trustees' visit to Mountain Creek, we had a very positive reaction to its potential for funding because of the water quality needs surrounding the property and because of its potential as a future environmental education park," said Stan.

In order to provide matching funds for the CWMTF grant, the Conservancy also negotiated the donation of a conservation easement on Terrapin Creek by Crescent. The strategy worked,

securing a Clean Water grant award of \$2.1 million in 2008.

In 2008, the economy took a nose dive and threatened to take the Mountain Creek conservation project along with it. The Conservancy received word in March of 2009 that the CWMTF funds had been frozen by Governor Perdue in an effort to stabilize the state budget. Adding to the uncertainty, Crescent declared bankruptcy in the summer of 2009.

Knowing that Clean Water funding would become even more competitive when the budget freeze ended, the Conservancy returned to Crescent and re-negotiated a \$500,000 reduction to the sale price. This boosted the match ratio provided by Terrapin Creek, making the project more attractive for Clean Water funding.

"Mountain Creek started out as a great project with significant water

quality benefits and it stayed a high priority," said Stan. "The increased match helped because we needed to make \$50 million go as far as possible."

Fortunately, the funding for Clean Water was released by Governor Perdue in the summer of 2010, allowing the project to move forward.

"Securing the Clean Water grant was a very complicated and extensive process and we were very glad to partner with the Conservancy," said Kitty.

The conservation of this landmark project was completed on December 21, 2010, more than five years after the process was initiated.

"It's been several years with some ups and downs along the way, but here we are closed on the project and we're very excited about it," said Mary. ■

CELEBRATE LOCAL CONSERVATION AND NATURE AT REDLAIR NATUREFEST



Families and friends enjoy a multitude of activities at NatureFest, including hay rides and hikes. Photos by Nancy Pierce.

Catawba Lands Conservancy and the Carolina Thread Trail invite you to celebrate our natural lands, regional conservation efforts and the joy of being outdoors at the 4th annual Redlair NatureFest. This free festival will be held on Saturday, April 30 at Redlair Farm & Forest in Gaston County. The event kicks off with the annual meeting at 10 am, followed by the festivities from 11 am to 4 pm.

This year's celebration includes guided and self-guided hikes,

music, children's activities, animals, hayrides, paddling on the South Fork Catawba River, and booths featuring local artisans and conservation-themed vendors. Dogs are welcome if kept on a leash.

For a unique perspective on the trails at Redlair, come out for the Race for the Land, featuring half marathon and 8k races. To register or learn more, visit catawbalands.org/racefortheland.

A CONSERVATION TREASURE

Redlair Farm & Forest is a privately-owned nature preserve protected by the Conservancy. The preserve has more than 75 miles of hiking trails and is a true

conservation treasure for its ecological diversity, mature forests, and 4.5 miles of river frontage.

Redlair's ecological diversity has drawn the attention of botanists for hundreds of years, starting with Andre Michaux, who identified a large population of the rare Bigleaf Magnolia on the land in the 1700s. The land is also home to the endangered Schweinitz sunflower.

The preserve serves as an outdoor classroom and research site for numerous colleges and universities. Studies cover an entire range of topics, such as hydrology, insect inventories and archeological excavation.

THE CONSERVANCY'S ANNUAL MEETING

Join us for the Conservancy's 20th annual meeting at 10 am, prior to NatureFest. The Conservancy's leadership team will give an overview of the

properties conserved in 2010, and discuss the impact of their conservation for our region.

During the meeting, the Conservancy will recognize landowners who have made a recent land donation, and announce the 2010 Eugene O. Daniels Volunteer of the Year.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to learn about the organization's priorities for 2011.

For more information, visit catawbalands.org/naturefest2011. ■

A YEAR OF MONUMENTAL SUCCESS: CONSERVANCY

Over the past year, the Conservancy increased its conserved lands by 1,436 acres or by approximately 10 percent, making it the most successful year in land conservation the organization has had since its founding in 1991. These phenomenal efforts pushed our total conserved lands over the 10,000 acre mark. All of this could not have been accomplished without the financial support of so many of you who are committed to advancing local land conservation.

In 2010, the Conservancy initiated a 20-year plan known as our

Conservation Vision 2030, which sets a goal of permanently conserving 50,000 acres by 2030. The vision identifies four key focus areas for the Conservancy, which are wildlife habitat, clean water, local farms and connection to nature. Through these four focus areas, we have outlined below our successes of the past year.

NOTE: Each of our conserved properties provides multiple conservation values and may be accounted for below in more than one area of public benefit. If you're interested in learning more, please visit catawbalands.org or call 704-342-3330.

CLEAN WATER

In 2010, the Conservancy protected a total of 1,067 acres with 12 miles of frontage along lakes, rivers and streams throughout the region. In Catawba County, the organization protected 719 acres along Lake Norman and its tributaries through the Mountain Creek and Terrapin Creek conservation project. Lake Norman is a source of drinking water for Huntersville, eastern Lincoln County, Mooresville, Davidson, Cornelius, and the northern portion of Charlotte.

Water from Lake Norman and the Catawba River watershed drains into Mountain Island Lake, the primary drinking water for the Charlotte area serving nearly 1 million people in Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Gastonia

and Mount Holly. In total, lands protected by the Conservancy in 2010 will help to filter more than 350 million gallons of water or approximately 536 Olympic-size swimming pools each year based on average annual rainfall in the region.

The Conservancy's land protection team and volunteers removed 12 pickup trucks full of waste from properties conserved in 2010 that protect water quality. Donations made to the Conservancy in 2010 helped to attract \$2.14 million in clean water project funding, which made our water quality projects possible.

Currently, the Conservancy has 10 projects in the conservation pipeline that encompass 829 acres of land that will provide significant water quality benefits to our region.



Ramah Creek flows through permanently protected lands.

LOCAL FARMS

Farming in North Carolina comprises more than 20 percent of the state's income, but is at great risk. Since 2002, the state has lost more than 6,000 farms and 600,000 acres of farmland, according to the NC Agricultural Development & Farmland Preservation Trust Fund. In fact, the American Farmland Trust reports that North Carolina loses an average of 55 acres of farmland each day – that same land that provides local foods and fuels our agricultural economy.

The Conservancy is actively working with farming communities throughout our



Juicy berries from the protected Hunter Farm make a tasty treat!

region to counteract farmland loss. In 2010, the organization protected four working farms with 400 acres of lands available for agricultural uses. Based on average crop yields in 2010 taken from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, those

400 acres have the potential to produce the following crops in a comparable year:

- 72,000 cwt. of sweet potatoes
- 1,120,000 pounds of peanuts
- 10,400 bushels of soybeans
- 36,400 bushels of corn for grain
- 14,800 bushels of wheat

Another way of looking at these protected acres is by the average number of acres it takes to support a person's food consumption for one year, according to research done by Dr. Chris Peters at Cornell University in 2007. Based on his

calculations, 400 acres could support for one year approximately 909 people who consume a low-fat vegetarian diet, or approximately 190 people who consume a high-fat, meat-intensive diet. Interestingly, Peters also concludes that a vegetarian diet requires higher quality farmland acreage. Prime farmlands with high quality soils are being developed at a much higher rate than lower quality farmlands, making conservation efforts even more important.

Currently, the Conservancy is working towards the protection of four working farms covering 381 acres of land.

PASSES 10,000 ACRE MARK

WILDLIFE HABITAT



A killdeer protects her nest. Photo by Allan White.

Over the past year, the Conservancy has permanently protected 1,436 acres of significant natural lands that provide the varied habitats to support local animal and plant species. Of that total, the Conservancy protected 1,009 acres of forest lands, 377 acres of field and farm lands and 10 acres of wetlands. These local

habitats support a variety of North Carolina priority species, or species at risk for population decline due to habitat loss. Among those found on Conservancy properties are the box turtle, coopers hawk, spotted salamander, Eastern hog-nosed snake and Eastern mole.

Another significant success for wildlife preservation in 2010 was the conservation of Terrapin Creek, which encompasses 130 acres of land on a county-significant natural heritage site as determined by the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program. Because of its variety of plant

species, the site provides high quality habitats that support a diverse cross-section of wildlife, including migrant bird species that are relatively uncommon in Catawba County. These include the wood thrush, blue-headed vireo, Northern parula and hooded warbler.

Over the past year, the Conservancy's protected lands have supported five research projects conducted by scientists and students from UNC Charlotte and Davidson College on a variety of topics, including bird and reptile habitat studies. Volunteers on the Ramah Creek Conservation Area in northern Mecklenburg County participated in the Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count. The data collected help to assess

the health of bird populations and determine conservation strategies.

Additionally, the Conservancy partnered with the North Carolina Wildlife Federation and the North Carolina Resources Commission to inform the organization's Conservation Vision 2030. The partners continue to collaborate to identify and protect vital habitat to advance wildlife protection as presented in the North Carolina Wildlife Action Plan. To learn more about the conservation priorities and tactics for implementing the Wildlife Action Plan, visit ncwildlife.org/plan.

The land protection team is working on 11 active projects covering 870 acres of forest, field and farm lands, and wetland habitats.

CONNECTION TO NATURE

As lead agency for the Carolina Thread Trail, the Conservancy is committed to advancing trails, greenways and blueways across the region and providing opportunity for residents and visitors to connect with our natural environment. In 2010, four counties adopted master plans for countywide trail systems. Eight miles of new trail were opened for public enjoyment, bringing the total to 67 miles of trail that is now designated as part of The Thread. To continue the advancement of local trails region wide, in 2010 The Thread awarded \$563,795 in grants to community trail projects. For more information about The Thread in 2010, turn to the "Report to Communities" insert after page 6.

In addition to the Conservancy's role in furthering The Thread, the organization continued engagement of the Lakewood neighborhood in

northeast Charlotte as part of an ongoing Crossroads Charlotte initiative to connect Lakewood children and families with nature. The Conservancy is working to secure land for the Lakewood Nature Preserve, which will eventually include trails designated as part of The Thread.

The conservation of Mountain Creek in 2010 permanently conserved nearly 600 acres of natural lands for a future environmental park owned and run by Catawba County. The Conservancy also worked with the town of Mineral Springs to open a greenway on 58 acres of land that was conserved in 2009.

Additionally, the Conservancy hosted approximately 1,200 people at its annual NatureFest celebration, and The Thread hosted its 3rd Annual Trail Forum with approximately 160 attendees for a day of trail development education.

In the coming year, the Conservancy will continue to support communities across The Thread's 15-county region to plan and build local trails. Both the Conservancy and The Thread are expanding volunteer engagement opportunities, particularly in trail building activities throughout the

region. The Thread will be hosting volunteer work days on June 4 and September 24.

Finally, the Conservancy will host its 4th Annual Redlair NatureFest in Gaston County on Saturday, April 30, 2011. The Thread is planning its 4th Annual Trail Forum for the fourth quarter of 2011. ■



The Conservancy and Lakewood CDC have engaged Children and Family Outreach Coordinator Jamaal Griffin to help Lakewood kids to get outside nearly every day.

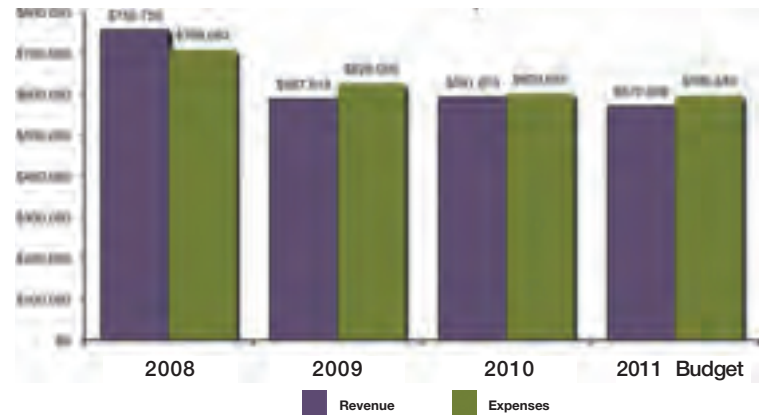
CATAWBA LANDS CONSERVANCY 2010 FINANCIALS

BUDGET SUMMARY, 2009 - 2011 GENERAL FUND¹

| | 2009 Actual | 2010 Actual ² | 2011 Budget | Annual Avg. Delta |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Revenue | | | | |
| Donors | \$276,320 | \$386,721 | \$390,000 | 15% |
| Foundations & Gov't | \$176,130 | \$100,936 | \$60,000 | -71% |
| Corp. Partners | \$95,000 | \$41,055 | \$50,000 | -21% |
| Fee for Service | \$21,487 | \$16,415 | \$25,000 | -2% |
| Other | \$22,681 | \$19,848 | \$20,500 | -6% |
| Stewardship Transfer | \$25,000 | \$25,000 | \$25,000 | 0% |
| Total Revenue | \$587,618 | \$591,975 | \$570,508 | -2% |
| Expenses | | | | |
| Compensation | \$398,028 | \$343,401 | \$417,555 | 1% |
| Comm & Outreach | \$86,758 | \$89,594 | \$53,025 | -14% |
| Rent & Maintenance | \$96,986 | \$37,643 | \$35,778 | -6% |
| Insurance & fees | \$17,724 | \$13,496 | \$13,496 | -18% |
| Printing & Supplies | \$27,435 | \$37,122 | \$36,850 | 13% |
| Other | \$78,046 | \$99,399 | \$39,842 | -63% |
| Total Expenses | \$626,005 | \$609,653 | \$596,546 | -2% |
| Operating Net | -\$38,387 | -\$8,680 | -\$26,038 | |

Notes:
 1 Excludes land projects, other project funding and costs, including the Carolina Thread Trail revenue and expenses
 2 Year end preliminary; subject to audit and final adjustment

GENERAL FUND REVENUE & EXPENSES

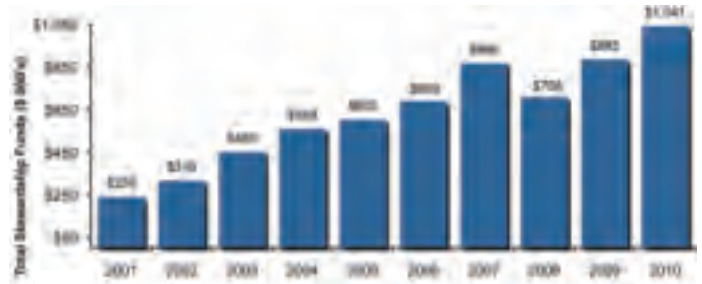


CASH BALANCES BY FUNCTION



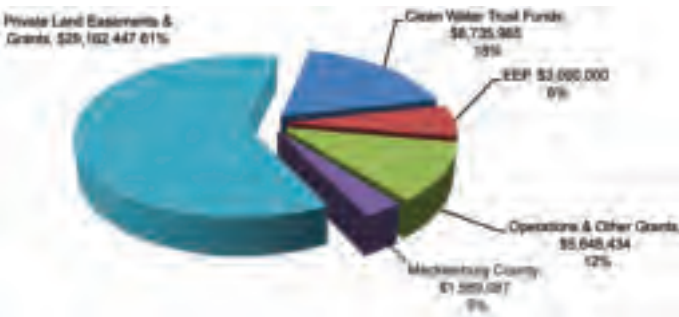
* Includes Estelle Rankin Stewardship funds of \$95,000 held by the State of NC

STEWARDSHIP & LEGAL DEFENSE ENDOWMENT GROWTH

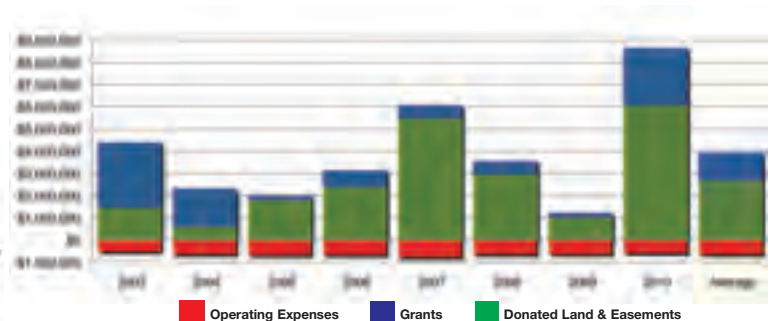


Note: Includes Estelle Rankin Stewardship funds of \$95,000 held by the State of NC

SOURCES OF FUNDS FOR LOCAL CONSERVATION ASSETS As of 2010 YE, unaudited



LEVERAGING CAPITAL FOR CONSERVATION





THE CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL'S 2010 REPORT TO COMMUNITIES



Philip Blumenthal

Dear friends,

I am excited and honored to be serving as chair of the Carolina Thread Trail Governing Board. Having been involved with the project since inception, how

rewarding it has been to see The Thread move from an idea to a developing system of trails. That successful evolution is thanks to the leadership provided by my predecessor, Ruth Shaw. I know I speak for everyone involved with this project in expressing gratitude for Ruth's vision, energy, leadership and ongoing commitment to The Thread.

I am thrilled to provide this report to our communities, neighbors and friends about the terrific progress The Thread has made over the past year. With the addition of Catawba, Cleveland, Mecklenburg and Stanly

Counties, the project now encompasses nine counties that have officially adopted countywide Carolina Thread Trail master plans, for a total of 1,000 planned trail miles.

A major focus for The Thread in 2010 was turning planned miles into actual trails where people can walk, bike, hike and connect with nature. At the close of the year, we had a total of 67 miles of trail open for residents and visitors in our region. In September and October, eight communities throughout the area held sign unveiling celebrations to officially "Mark The Thread."

As part of our effort to support communities in planning and building trails, The Thread has now awarded \$1,568,000 in catalytic grants to

communities throughout the region. These grants are made possible by the generosity of private donors, to whom we are deeply grateful. Our generous supporters can be found on the back of this report. In addition to private capital, The Thread, working with local communities, has attracted substantial public funding to support land acquisition and trail development.

Progress on the ground is also made possible through the generous donation of land. As an example, in April, the Carstarphen family donated 95 acres of land in McAdenville, North Carolina with 3 miles of frontage on the South Fork Catawba River. Known as the Pharr Yarns Preserve, the site is now home to the first volunteer-constructed trail segment in The Thread, which was dedicated in early October.

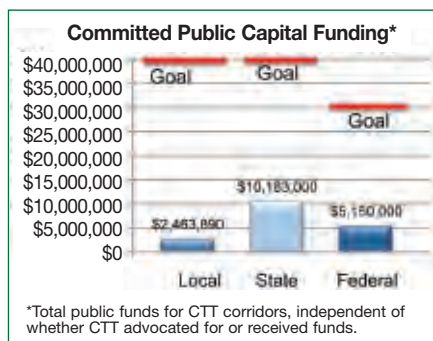
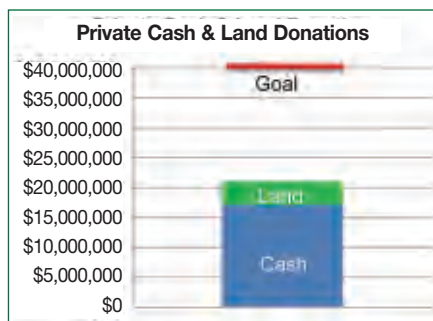
We invite you to read through a number of trail highlights from 2010 on the following pages. These highlights are a preview of what you now have the opportunity to experience when exploring The Thread. Communities have reported overwhelming interest in these new trails, like the Riverwalk Trail in Rock Hill, South Carolina, which reported more than 4,000 visitors weekly in its first month open.

The year ahead will be an exciting time for opening even more trails, involving a greater number of volunteer trail builders, sharing our photos and stories from The Thread online and moving the project forward in communities across the region. The momentum is great, but there is much to do and we need your support. Please feel free to contact The Thread team with your thoughts, questions, and interests.

Most importantly, as the days get longer, brighter and warmer, we invite you to come out and experience The Thread. We hope to see you on the trail soon!

Sincerely,

Philip Blumenthal
Chair, Carolina Thread Trail
Governing Board



| Operating Expenses and Fund Balances | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| | Actual 2010 | Budget 2011 |
| Program Expenses (CLC) | \$637,363 | \$770,079 |
| Total - Contracted Services | \$14,330 | \$75,000 |
| Total Operating Expenses | \$651,693 | \$845,079 |
| Fund Balance 12/31/10 | | |
| Cash | \$4,653,158 | |
| Outstanding Pledges | \$5,593,193 | |
| Total Cash & Pledges | \$10,246,351 | |
| Endowment Fund | \$2,128,236 | |
| Total Assets | \$12,374,587 | |

| Community Grants | |
|--|------------------|
| Grant Recipient | Amount |
| Planning Grants | |
| Iredell County | \$60,000 |
| Union County | \$60,000 |
| Catawba County | \$60,000 |
| Lancaster County | \$60,000 |
| Implementation Grants | |
| City of Kannapolis - Irish Buffalo Creek | \$30,000 |
| Chester County - Lowrys McConnells | \$100,000 |
| Kings Mountain Gateway Trail | \$150,000 |
| City of Kings Mountain - Potts Creek | \$16,600 |
| City of Shelby - First Broad River | \$15,000 |
| Nation Ford Greenway - Coulston/ Regent Park | \$40,000 |
| Town of Cramerton - Goat Island | \$31,000 |
| City of Belmont - Rail Trail | \$30,000 |
| Bessemer City - Bessemer City Park | \$10,000 |
| City of Lincolnton - Walkers Branch | \$9,200 |
| Mecklenburg County - Toby Creek | \$100,000 |
| Catawba Lands Conservancy - Long Creek | \$19,500 |
| Catawba Lands Conservancy - Newcombe Preserve | \$12,495 |
| Total grants awarded in 2010 | \$803,795 |
| Cumulative grants awarded | \$1,568,002 |



CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL MAKES TRACKS FORWARD IN 2010

You can now enjoy more than 67 miles of Carolina Thread Trail throughout the region. Here are some of the highlights from trails that became part of The Thread in 2010. For directions or more information about each segment, visit carolinathreadtrail.org.



KINGS MOUNTAIN GATEWAY TRAIL Kings Mountain, NC

The Kings Mountain Gateway Trail will ultimately stretch up to 10 miles, connecting the City of Kings Mountain to Crowders Mountain State Park, Kings Mountain State Park, Kings Mountain National Military Park, the Ocracoke Mountain Victory Trail and the Appalachian Trail. The first phase of the trail was designated as part of The Thread in May 2010 and offers 1 to 2 miles of multi-use trail, as well as picnic areas, restrooms, parking and handicap access.



PHARR YARNS PRESERVE McAdenville, NC

This volunteer-constructed natural surface trail winds approximately 2 miles through the Pharr Yarns Preserve, a 95-acre property permanently protected by Catawba Lands Conservancy. Enjoy scenic views of the South Fork Catawba River, or use the trailhead in McAdenville as a take-out point for paddling the river.



RIVERWALK TRAIL Rock Hill, SC

Opened in July 2010, the Riverwalk Trail is a 2 mile asphalt trail offering scenic views of the Catawba River. It's the first project to be completed in the planned Riverwalk community in Rock Hill and has attracted thousands of visitors that regularly enjoy strolling, running or biking the trail. Keep an eye out for the osprey and bald eagles that nest along the river. Trail amenities include restrooms at the parking area, benches, per stations and bridges.

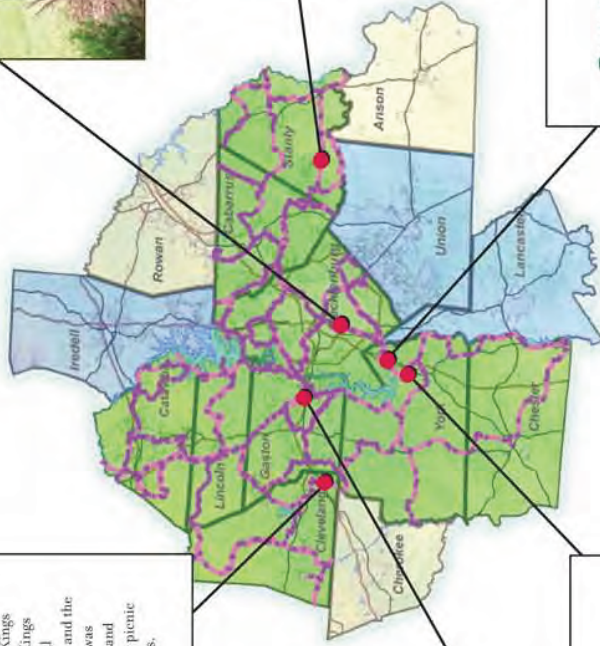


LITTLE SUGAR CREEK GREENWAY Charlotte, NC

The expansion of the Little Sugar Creek Greenway, now more than 3 miles in length, provides connectivity between shopping and restaurants at the uptown Metropolitan development, Carolinas Medical Center, the amenities at Freedom Park (sports fields and courts, a lake, amphitheater, playgrounds, outdoor shelters, and the Mahlon Adams Pavilion), Charlotte Nature Museum, Park Road Elementary School, and Park Road Shopping Center. The level, paved trail is perfect for a variety of family-friendly activities.

OAKBORO DISTRICT PARK TRAIL Oakboro, NC

This half mile trail connects near the Town of Oakboro's Railroad Museum to the District Park, linking the downtown area to numerous recreation opportunities, including a pond, ball fields, picnic areas and an amphitheatre. This is an interesting example of a trail following a working railway line.



BAXTER VILLAGE Fort Mill, SC

This trail system, part of the Baxter Village mixed-use community, winds through the neighborhood for 3 miles and offers a scenic overlook of the Catawba River. The trail is mostly a single-track natural surface trail suitable for mountain biking or foot traffic.

THE TRAIL AHEAD IN 2011

2011 GOALS: GETTING 'TRAIL ON THE GROUND'

The focus of 2011 will be supporting counties with adopted plans in building new trails, increasing the number of miles of Carolina Thread Trail, as well as expanding connectivity throughout the region. The organization will also continue to support counties in the planning process and raise additional capital.

Project goals include:

- Build 15 miles of new trail
- Add 25 miles of newly-secured corridor
- Complete master planning in three counties
- Empower communities to advance The Thread with our catalytic grants and volunteer engagement

- Attract \$5 million in public capital and \$5 million in private cash and land
- Continue to support communities through outreach, education and technical services
- Expand our leadership group

Stay up-to-date on our successes by signing up for our e-news at carolinathreadtrail.org.

ENGAGING VOLUNTEERS IN TRAIL BUILDING

The Thread was awarded a \$58,000 grant by Advantage Carolina to fund a volunteer-training and trail construction project along the Rocky River in Harrisburg, North Carolina. The project will create a multi-use, 2.3-mile, natural surface trail, as well as train 16 citizen volunteers in various natural surface trail construction techniques.

Volunteers selected through an application process will be taught by a professional trail educator, and participants will also learn how to manage volunteer trail construction teams. Graduates of the training program

will be empowered to lead trail construction projects to advance The Thread in communities throughout the region.

In addition to this trail building training, The Thread will be hosting two volunteer workdays in 2011:

- **June 4 - National Trails Day**
- **September 24 - National Public Lands Day**

To sign up as a volunteer, contact Amanda at 704-376-2556 ext. 215.



Volunteers on the Pharr Yarns Preserve

THE THREAD GETS INTERACTIVE ONLINE

In the first quarter of 2011, the Carolina Thread Trail will debut a brand new website, as well as a social media presence on YouTube and Facebook. This is your opportunity to visit us online, check out our new, interactive map and post your comments about a favorite trail or what you saw on your weekend hike. You can even share your photos and video from the trail! We'll be using these new, online venues to post

events, share news, debut new trails and post photos and video from throughout the region.

Our new interactive presence online would not be possible without the tremendous work of Henry Fleming & Company. Provided pro bono, their team's web development expertise and social media savvy has been invaluable to The Thread. We are extremely grateful!

Visit Us Online: YouTube.com/CarolinaThreadTrail
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If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Amanda at 704-376-2556 ext. 215 or amanda@carolinathreadtrail.org.

THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS

The Thread thanks the many local partners, land trusts and steering committee members that have been instrumental in advancing our shared regional vision for recreation and conservation in the past year.

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Nation Ford Greenway
Kings Mountain Gateway Trail
Mount Holly Friends of the
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...and our many local government
partners!

In addition, we'd like to thank the local leaders who have served on county steering committees throughout the region.

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The Conservancy and The Thread are very grateful for the continued support of Governor Bev Perdue and the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund trustees and staff. Without their sustained commitment to the preservation of North Carolina's precious water resources, we would not be where we are today.

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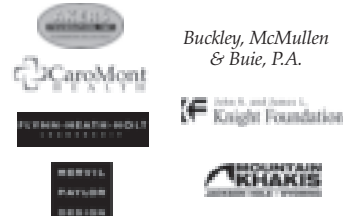
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