



RESOLUTION TITLE: TO APPROVE AMENDMENT TO THE CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL MASTER PLAN AND MAPS FOR GASTON COUNTY COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, on February 16, 2009, the Gaston County Parks and Recreation Commission and on February 26, 2009, the Gaston County Planning Board, voted to recommend adoption/approval of the "Carolina Thread Trail Plan for Gaston County Communities" to the Gaston County Board of Commission; and,

WHEREAS, a Resolution to support the Carolina Thread Trail was approved by the Board of County Commission on March 26, 2009; and,

WHEREAS, the Carolina Thread Trail has submitted a map amendment to include the Rocky Branch Park – Trail Enhancement Plan's multi-use trail and a new multi-use trail through the Stuart W. Cramer High School property, to replace a portion of the Carolina Thread Trail that follows along Eagle Road, which in some cases is without sidewalks or proper pedestrian and bicycle crossings at the road and railroad intersections; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Belmont, Town of Cramerton and Gaston County Parks and Recreation Department offer written support of same; and,

WHEREAS, the Gaston County Planning Board voted to recommend adoption/approval of the Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan and Maps Amendment at their regularly scheduled meeting on June 23, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, public hearing comments are on file in the Commission Clerk's Office as part of the Minutes of the meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners adopts the Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan and Maps Amendment; a submittal to include the Rocky Branch Park – Trail Enhancement Plan's multi-use trail and a new multi-use trail through the Stuart W. Cramer High School property, and to replace a portion of the Carolina Thread Trail that follows along Eagle Road.

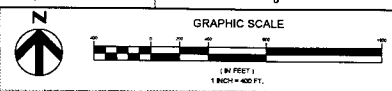
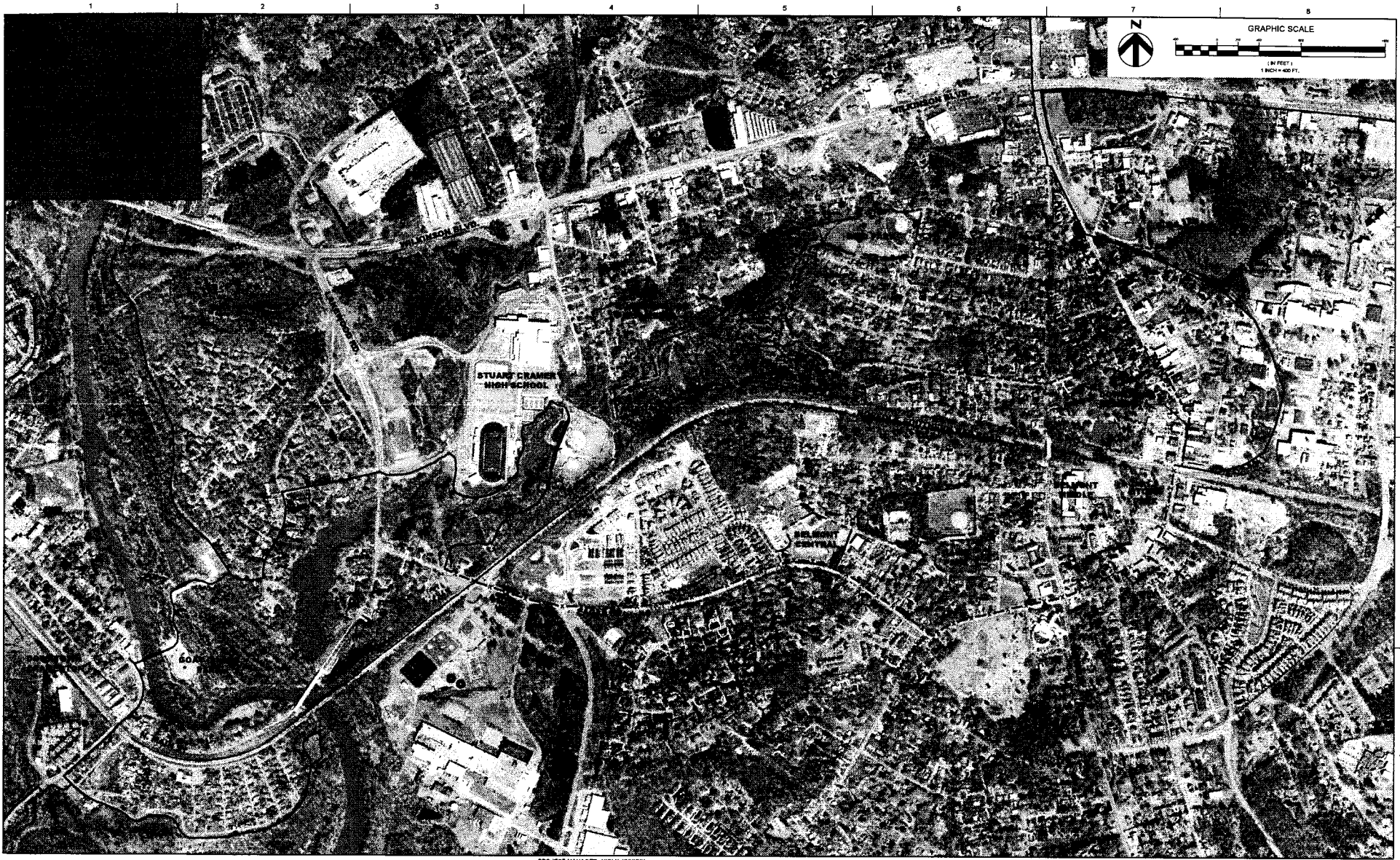
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the County Manager is authorized to make necessary notifications in this matter to appropriate parties.

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

NO.	DATE	M1	M2	CBrown	JBrown	AFrale	BHovis	TKelgher	TPM	RWorley	Vote
2020-172	06/23/2020	RW	BH	A	N	A	A	A	A	A	6 - 1

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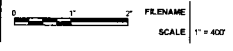


Carolina Thread Trail, Belmont to Cramerton, North Carolina, Project No. 12180001, 1/12/17, P. 000001

ISSUE	DATE	DESCRIPTION	PROJECT NUMBER	PROJECT MANAGER
			XXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXX X XXXXX

ROCKY BRANCH PARK
 BELMONT, NORTH CAROLINA

CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL
 BELMONT TO CRAMERTON



SHEET
 EX-001



GASTON COUNTY

PARKS AND RECREATION

P.O. BOX 1578
GASTONIA, NC 28053

PHONE: 704.922.2160
FAX: 704.922.2166

January 28, 2020

Carolina Thread Trail Board of Directors
Attention: Mr. Bret Baronak
Carolina Thread Trail Community Coordinator
4530 Park Road, Suite 420
Charlotte, NC 28209

Re: Letter of Support – Gaston County Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan Amendment

Dear Carolina Thread Trail Board of Directors:

On behalf of Gaston County Parks and Recreation and the Gaston County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, I would like to voice support of an amendment to the Gaston County Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan to include the Rocky Branch Park Trail Enhancement Plan multi-use trail and a new multi-use trail connection through Stuart Cramer High School property. Gaston County Parks and Recreation supports this new trail corridor between Cramerton and Belmont that is intended to provide better connectivity and outdoor recreation opportunities Gaston County residents and visitors.

The segment of multi-use trail through the Rocky Branch Park is intended to replace a portion of the Carolina Thread Trail that follows along Eagle Road. The existing trail is without sidewalks or proper bike/ped crossings at the road and railroad intersections. The multi-use trail through Rocky Branch Park will offer Carolina Thread Trail users connectivity on a natural surface trail through undeveloped and tree-canopied green space. The trail will be accessible by sidewalks, offer available parking, and be within two miles of several schools, other parks, and two downtown areas to provide benefit to a diverse population. It will also provide additional access and connection options to the River Link and Goat Island Greenways already established along the important Carolina Thread Trail South Fork River corridor. The Rocky Branch Park multi-use trail and Stuart Cramer High School connector trail will be a free, accessible community asset offering opportunities for recreation and exercise to everyone. It will also further aid in preserving green spaces from development.

Sincerely,

Cathy Hart, Director



City of Belmont

115 N. MAIN STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 431
BELMONT, N.C. 28012
PHONE (704) 825-5586
www.cityofbelmont.org

January 22, 2020

Carolina Thread Trail Board of Directors
C/O Bret Baronak
Carolina Thread Trail Community Coordinator
4530 Park Road, Suite 420
Charlotte, NC 28209

Re: Letter of Support – Rocky Branch Park Inclusion in the Gaston County Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan

Dear Carolina Thread Trail Board of Directors:

I write on behalf of the City of Belmont in support of an amendment to the Gaston County Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan to include the Rocky Branch Park -Trail Enhancement Plan's multi-use trail and a new multi-use trail connection through the Stuart Cramer High School property. On Monday, October 28, 2019, Belmont City Council unanimously approved the Rocky Branch Park - Trail Enhancement plan and approved designation of the multi-use trail through the park as a Carolina Thread Trail segment. The City strongly supports this project and its mission to provide better connectivity, outdoor recreation opportunities and a purpose-built trail corridor to connect the Town of Cramerton and the City of Belmont in Gaston County.

This segment of multi-use trail through the park is intended to replace a portion of the Carolina Thread Trail that follows along Eagle Road which in some cases is without sidewalks or proper pedestrian and bicycle crossings at the road and railroad intersections. The multi-use trail through Rocky Branch Park will offer Carolina Thread Trail users connectivity between the Town of Cramerton and the City of Belmont on a natural surface trail through undeveloped and tree-canopied green space. The trail will be accessible by sidewalks, offer available parking, and be within two miles of several schools, other parks, and two downtown areas to provide benefit to a diverse population. The Rocky Branch Park multi-use trail and Stuart Cramer High School connector trail will be a free, accessible community asset offering opportunities for recreation and exercise to everyone. It will also further aid in preserving green spaces from development.

We believe the needs of the Belmont community and the Carolina Thread Trail mission are better achieved through the proposed alignment through Rocky Branch Park.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adrian Miller", is written over a horizontal line.

Adrian Miller
City Manager

TOWN OF CRAMERTON

est. 1915

January 21, 2020

Carolina Thread Trail Board of Directors
C/O Bret Baronak
Carolina Thread Trail Community Coordinator
4530 Park Road, Suite 420
Charlotte, NC 28209

Re: Letter of Support – Gaston County Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan Amendment

Dear Carolina Thread Trail Board of Directors:

I write on behalf of the Town of Cramerton in support of an amendment to the Gaston County Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan to include the Rocky Branch Park -Trail Enhancement Plan's multi-use trail and a new multi-use trail connection through the Stuart W. Cramer High School property. The Town strongly supports this new trail corridor between the Town of Cramerton and the City of Belmont that is intended to provide better connectivity and outdoor recreation opportunities for the Town of Cramerton and City of Belmont residents and visitors.

This segment of multi-use trail through Rocky Branch Park is intended to replace a portion of the Carolina Thread Trail that follows along Eagle Road which in some cases is without sidewalks or proper pedestrian and bicycle crossings at the road and railroad intersections. The multi-use trail through Rocky Branch Park will offer Carolina Thread Trail users connectivity between the Town of Cramerton and the City of Belmont on a natural surface trail through undeveloped and tree-canopied green space. The trail will be accessible by sidewalks, offer available parking, and be within two miles of several schools, other parks, and two downtown areas to provide benefit to a diverse population. It will also provide additional access and connection options to the River Link and Goat Island Greenways already established along the important Carolina Thread Trail South Fork River corridor.

We believe the needs of the Cramerton community and the Carolina Thread Trail mission are better achieved with the proposed alignment through Rocky Branch Park.

Sincerely,



Eric Smallwood
Parks and Recreation Director
Town of Cramerton



Gaston County Schools
shaping our future

February 10, 2020

W. Jeffrey Booker
Superintendent

Carolina Thread Trail Board of Directors
C/O Bret Baronak
Carolina Thread Trail Community Coordinator
4530 Park Road, Suite 420
Charlotte, NC 28209

Central Administrative Office
943 Osceola Street
P. O. Box 1397
Gastonia, NC 28053
704-866-6100
FAX 704-866-6175

Re: Letter of Support – Gaston County Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan Amendment

Department of
Exceptional Children
215 West Third Avenue
Gastonia, NC 28052
704-866-6160
FAX 704-866-6191

Dear Carolina Thread Trail Board of Directors:

Division of
Resource Management
1351 Bradford Heights Road
Gastonia, NC 28054
704-866-6129
FAX 704-866-6193

I write on behalf of Gaston County Schools in support of an amendment to the Gaston County Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan to include the Rocky Branch Park -Trail Enhancement Plan's multi-use trail and a new multi-use trail connection through the Stuart Cramer High School property. Gaston County Schools supports this new trail corridor connection through the Stuart Cramer High School property connecting the existing Carolina Thread Trail on the property to the proposed multi-use trail through Rocky Branch Park. This trail connection will provide better connectivity and outdoor recreation opportunities for the high school students and faculty as well as the Town of Cramerton and City of Belmont residents.

School Nutrition Programs
500 Reid Street
Lowell, NC 28098
704-824-8423
FAX 704-824-8442

The proposed segment of multi-use trail through Stuart Cramer High School property and Rocky Branch Park is intended to replace a portion of the Carolina Thread Trail that follows along Eagle Road which in some cases is without sidewalks or proper pedestrian and bicycle crossings at the road and railroad intersections. This multi-use trail will offer Carolina Thread Trail users connectivity between the Town of Cramerton and the City of Belmont on a natural surface trail through undeveloped and tree-canopied green space. The trail will be accessible by sidewalks, offer available parking, and be within two miles of other schools, parks, and two downtown areas to provide benefit to a diverse population. The Rocky Branch Park multi-use trail and Stuart Cramer High School connector trail will be a free, accessible community asset offering opportunities for recreation and exercise to everyone.

Staff Development Center
240 Eighth Avenue
Cramerton, NC 28032
704-824-2828
FAX 704-824-4918

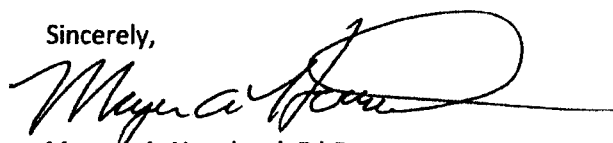
Teacher Resource Center
366 W. Garrison Boulevard
Gastonia, NC 28052
704-866-6174
FAX 704-866-6194

Gaston County Schools intends to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Tarheel Trailblazers for ongoing maintenance of the Carolina Thread Trail from the Eagle Road trailhead to the connection at Rocky Branch Park. The Tarheel Trailblazers will provide regular oversight and trail maintenance to ensure a predictable natural surface trail for an enjoyable, safe user experience along this corridor.

The Tarheel Trailblazers already have a long standing MOU with the City of Belmont for maintenance of the trails within Rocky Branch Park. Their creditable experience with trail construction and maintenance in the Charlotte Metro area will guarantee a well maintained, sustainable natural surface trail through the high school property.

We believe the needs of the local community and the Carolina Thread Trail mission are better achieved through the proposed alignment through the Stuart Cramer High School property and Rocky Branch Park.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Morgen A. Houchard', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Morgen A. Houchard, Ed.D.
Executive Director of Auxiliary Services
Gaston County Schools



Gaston County

Gaston County
Board of Commissioners
www.gastongov.com

Planning Board Action

File #: 20-088

Commissioner Worley - Planning & Development Services - To Approve Amendment to the Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan and Maps for Gaston County Communities

STAFF CONTACT

David L. Williams - Planning Director - 704-866-3473
Cathy Hart - Parks & Recreation Director - 704-922-2162

BACKGROUND

On February 28, 2008, the Board of County Commission approved a resolution to support the Carolina Thread Trail. This support allowed for the development of a Master Trail Plan facilitated by Catawba Lands Conservancy and Carolina Thread Trail Planning Team to work with the county, municipalities, and neighboring communities to design, plan, and build a system of connected trails in the 15 County Region, with the mission being to bring resources to Gaston County for trail planning and construction.

On March 26, 2009, the Board of County Commission approved a resolution to adopt the Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan for Gaston County Communities; an outline for a system of trails that will connect our communities, people and special regional points of interest for years to come. The plan does not allow for property condemnation, and property easements, including abandoned railway lines, will only be acquired from willing property owners. In addition, adoption of the plan does not imply a commitment of funding by Gaston County for implementation. The plan is a concept consisting of trail connections or lines on the Master Plan Map that are flexible and can be moved as necessary.

The Carolina Thread Trail has submitted a map amendment to include the Rocky Branch Park - Trail Enhancement Plan's multi-use trail and a new multi-use trail through the Stuart W. Cramer High School property, to replace a portion of the Carolina Thread Trail that follows along Eagle Road, which in some cases is without sidewalks or proper pedestrian and bicycle crossings at the road and railroad intersections. The Commission is requested to consider approval of the map amendment in support of this new trail corridor between Cramerton and Belmont that is intended to provide better connectivity and outdoor recreation opportunities for Gaston County residents and visitors.

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution; Map; Letters of Support

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

NO.	DATE	M1	M2	CBrown	JBrown	AFrale	BHovis	TKelgher	TPhillbeck	RWorley	Vote
2020-172	06/23/2020	RW	BH	A	N	A	A	A	A	A	6-1

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