



*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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy Hart". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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](http://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 blue ink, appearing to read "Adrian Miller".

Adrian Miller  
City Manager

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# TOWN OF CRAMERTON

est. 1915

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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". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

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