



**RESOLUTION TITLE: AMENDMENT TO THE CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL MASTER PLAN TO INCLUDE THE ADDITION OF THE STOWE CONNECTOR TRAIL**

WHEREAS, on February 26, 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 Commissioners; and,

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

WHEREAS, the Carolina Thread Trail has submitted a map amendment to include the addition of the Stowe Connector Trail within the Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Belmont offers 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 March 31, 2025; and,

WHEREAS, the Gaston County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board voted to recommend adoption/approval of the Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan and Maps Amendment at their regularly scheduled meeting on March 17, 2025; 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 addition of the Stowe Connector Trail that is intended to provide better connectivity and outdoor recreation opportunities for Gaston County residents and visitors.

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	JBailey	CBrown	CCloninger	AFraley	BHovis	TKeigher	SShehan	Vote
2025-099	04/22/2025	SS	JB	A	A	A	AB	A	AB	A	U

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# CURRENT FACILITIES

**LEGEND**

**Property Sites**

A Village

B Growing Center

C Lost Hollow Adventure Trail

D Prairie Castle

E Piedmont Prairie

**Existing Trail Corridors**

1) Big Pond Loop .35 mi

2) Worrell's Walk .25 mi

3) Small Pond Loop .13 mi

4) Persimmon .27 mi

5) The Boulevard .2 mi

6) Stowe Connector Trail 1.2 mi

7) Grass Cross Country Loop 1.1 mi

8) Lost Hollow Adventure Trail .5 mi

9) Paved Sidewalk .75 mi

10) Meadowood Walk .6 mi

11) Duke Kimbrell Trail - CTT 2.6 mi


12) Lake View Loop .2 mi

**Surface Type**

Natural Soil/Grass

Gravel/Crushed Aggregate

Paved/Concrete



05001,000ft

N





## GASTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM

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P.O. Box 1578  
Gastonia, N.C. 28053  
(704) 922-2160 Office  
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1303 Dallas-Cherryville Hwy.  
Dallas, N.C. 28034  
parksandrec@gastongov.com

March 18, 2025

Gaston County Planning Board  
Attention: Peyton Wiggins  
P.O. Box 1578  
Gastonia, NC 28053

RE: Letter of Support – Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan Amendment

Dear Gaston County Planning Board Members:

On behalf of the Gaston County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, I would like to voice support for the proposed amendment to the Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan. The Gaston County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board reviewed the Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden trail addition at our March 17, 2025 meeting.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recognizes the importance of Gaston County's outdoor resources. Our 2024 Parks and Recreation Master Plan addresses the value of Gaston County's existing Carolina Thread Trail network and emphasizes its continued collaborative development. Trail segments identified within the comprehensive plan as the highest priority include the Matthews Belk South Fork River Corridor of which the 1-mile trail amendment at Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden is a part.

Thank you for your consideration of Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan Amendment. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board fully supports its adoption and the opportunity to promote outdoor recreation for citizens and visitors to Gaston County.

Sincerely,

Cindy Isenhour, Chair  
Gaston County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board



**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ADDITION OF THE STOWE CONNECTOR TRAIL TO THE GASTON COUNTY CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL MASTER PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, the Carolina Thread Trail is a regional network of trails that connects 2.9 million people in 15 counties in North and South Carolina, and serves as an example of unprecedented regional collaboration that works to connect people and communities to nature and each other through its 1,610 miles of trails, greenways and blueways; and

**WHEREAS**, Gaston County was selected for a Carolina Thread Trail pilot project in 2007 to create a greenway master plan where the City of Belmont served on the steering committee; and

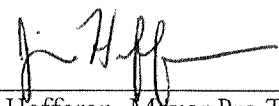
**WHEREAS**, the City of Belmont adopted a resolution of support for the Carolina Thread Trail Gaston County Master Plan in February 2009; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2018 Comprehensive Land Use Plan outlines outdoor recreation as a guiding principle of Belmont, and notes that quality access, both visual and physical, to Belmont's more than seventeen miles of river frontage is valued and essential to the City's quality of life and character; and

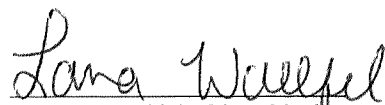
**WHEREAS**, providing trail access and connectivity to our community's key destinations, such as the Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, is also a core tenet of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED** by the City Council of the City of Belmont that the City of Belmont fully supports the designation of the Stowe Connector Trail as a segment of the Gaston County Master Plan for the Carolina Thread Trail.

Adopted this 17th day of March, 2025.

  
Jim Hefferan, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

  
Laura Woelfel, City Clerk





# Gaston County

Gaston County  
Board of Commissioners  
www.gastongov.com

## Building and Development Services

### Board Action

File #: 25-161

Commissioner Bailey - Building & Development Services - To Approve Amendment to the Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan and Maps for Gaston County Communities, to Add the Stowe Connector Trail

#### STAFF CONTACT

Peyton Wiggins - Planner II - 704-866-3530

#### BACKGROUND

On February 28, 2008, the Board of County Commissioners 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 Commissioners 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 Stowe Connector Trail within the Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, which includes existing connections through the gardens and surrounding areas of the City of Belmont; as shown on the attached map.

The Board is requested to consider recommendation for approval of the map amendment in support of the new connector trail that is intended to provide better connectivity and outdoor recreation opportunities for Gaston County residents and visitors.

#### ATTACHMENTS

Resolution, Map, and Letters of Support

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE

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