



**RESOLUTION TITLE: TO APPROVE AMENDMENT TO THE CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL MASTER PLAN AND MAPS FOR GASTON COUNTY COMMUNITIES, TO INCLUDE THE BLUEWAY 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 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 Blueway Trail, which includes existing connections along the South Fork River through the Towns of Spencer Mountain, McAdenville, and Cramerton; and, a segment continuing south from Mountain Island Lake along the Catawba River through the City of Mount Holly; with proposed connections along the South Fork River from the Town of Cramerton heading south to Lake Wylie; and, from along the Catawba River through and from the City of Belmont heading south to Lake Wylie; and, along Dutchman's Creek heading south towards the City of Mount Holly; 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 14, 2021; 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 Blueway Trail corridor that is intended to provide better connectivity and outdoor recreation opportunities for Gaston County residents and visitors.

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	AFrale	BHovis	KJohnson	TKeigher	TPhilbeck	RWorley	Vote
2021-175	06/22/2021	RW	CB	A	A	A	A	AB	A	A	U

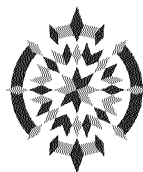
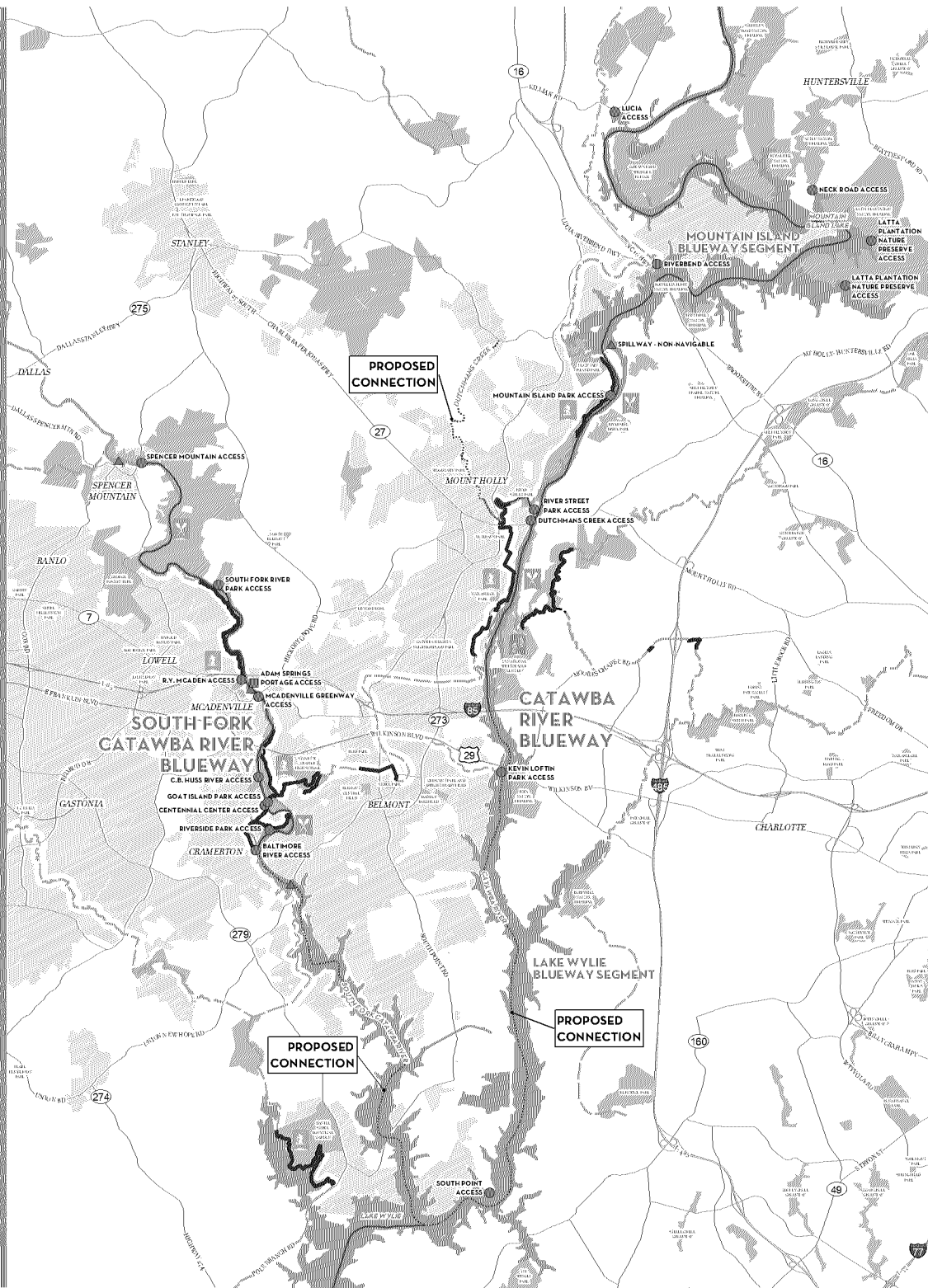
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# CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL - PROPOSED BLUEWAYS

For Gaston County, NC



**CAROLINA  
THREAD  
TRAIL**



**BLUEWAY**  
BLUEWAY SEGMENT  
BLUEWAY POINTS OF INTEREST

## LEGEND

- DAM
- HAND CARRY BOAT LANDING
- PORTAGE
- ACTIVE BLUEWAYS
- PROPOSED BLUEWAYS
- CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL (COMPLETED)
- CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL (PLANNED)
- CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL (IN PROCESS)
- STRAIGHTS
- PARKS AND CONSERVATION PROPERTIES
- CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL CORRIDOR



## GASTON COUNTY

## PARKS AND RECREATION

P.O. BOX 1578  
GASTONIA, NC 28053  
Phone: 704-922-2160  
Fax: 704-922-2166

1303 Dallas-Cherryville Hwy  
Dallas, NC 28034  
parksandrec@gastongov.com

May 25, 2021

Gaston County Planning Board  
Attention: Sarah Penley  
PO Box 1578  
Gastonia, NC 28053

Re: Letter of Support - Gaston County Blueway Plan

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 Gaston County Blueway Plan. The Gaston County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board reviewed the proposed blueway plan at our March 15, 2021 meeting.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recognizes the importance and value of Gaston County's outdoor resources. The Gaston County Parks and Recreation Master Plan for 2017 - 2026 addresses the value of the South Fork River, the Catawba River, Mountain Island Lake, Rankin Lake, and the miles of creeks and streams that provide a wide range of water resources. Citizens communicated the desire and need for public access to waterways throughout the public participation portion of the Master Planning process.

Thank you for your consideration of the Gaston County Blueway Plan. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board fully supports adoption of the plan and the opportunity promote recreational opportunities for citizens and visitors to Gaston County.

Sincerely,

Dee Dee Gillis, Chairman  
Gaston County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board



**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE GASTON COUNTY BLUEWAY TRAIL TO THE  
CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL MASTER PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, the Carolina Thread Trail is a regional network of trails that connect 2.9 million people in 15 counties in North and South Carolina, and serves 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**, the 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**, the 2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan recommends blueway trail access and several river access points along the Catawba River and South Fork River;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED** by the City Council of the City of Belmont that the City of Belmont fully supports the addition of the proposed blueway trail to the Gaston County Master Plan for the Carolina Thread Trail.

Adopted this 3rd day of May, 2021.

  
Charles R. Martin, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
Jamie Campbell, City Clerk





May 25, 2021

Gaston County Planning Board  
C/O Cathy Hart  
Gaston County Parks and Recreation Director  
PO Box 1578  
Gastonia, NC 28054

Re: Letter of Support – Gaston County Blueway Plan for the Carolina Thread Trail

Dear Gaston County Planning Board Members:

I am writing in support of the adoption of the Gaston County Blueway Plan for the Carolina Thread Trail.

In its own Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the Town of Cramerton strongly supports efforts to increase accessibility and awareness of Gaston County's natural resources. The county's rivers and tributaries are a vital part of Gaston County and the Town of Cramerton's efforts to be the premier outdoor recreation destination in the region.

Furthermore, adoption of this plan for the Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan for Gaston County will increase conservation and education opportunities of the county's beautiful landscape to be preserved for future generations.

With over three miles of river frontage in Cramerton on the South Fork Catawba River and five established river access points, the Town of Cramerton values access and connectivity to blueways. I believe adoption of the Blueway Master Plan for the Carolina Thread Trail will increase the quality of life for all Gaston County residents.

At the June 3, 2021 meeting, the Cramerton Board of Commissioners will consider a resolution of support for the County's plan. I am hopeful for their support and will send any follow-up documents accordingly.

Sincerely,

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

David Pugh, ICMA-CM  
Town Manager  
Town of Cramerton, NC

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE GASTON COUNTY BLUEWAY TRAIL TO THE  
CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL MASTER PLAN  
RESOLUTION #2021-10**

**WHEREAS**, the Carolina Thread Trail is a regional network of trails that connect 2.9 million people in fifteen (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 Town of Cramerton served on the steering committee; and


**WHEREAS**, the Town of Cramerton unanimously adopted the Carolina Thread Trail Gaston County Greenway Master Plan as a supplement to the Town's Master Greenway and Pedestrian Plan on January 6, 2009; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2020 Cramerton Parks and Recreation Masterplan outlines outdoor recreation and conservation of natural resources as a priority for Cramerton recreational needs and citizens quality of life and places emphasis on equitable access to the South Fork Catawba River; and

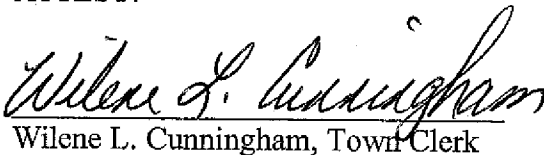
**WHEREAS**, in 2021 the Town of Cramerton formed the Southfork River Health Committee with representatives from five (5) different municipalities, Gaston County, State level representatives, the Catawba Riverkeeper, the Catawba Lands Conservancy, and private stakeholders to ensure the health and long-term sustainability of the South Fork Catawba River and all other Gaston County waterways and tributaries.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Town of Cramerton's Board of Commissioners fully support the addition of the proposed blueway trail to the Gaston County Master Plan for the Carolina Thread Trail.

Adopted this the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of June 2021.

  
William A. Cauthen, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Wilene L. Cunningham, Town Clerk



**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE GASTON COUNTY BLUEWAY TRAIL TO THE  
CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL MASTER PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, the Carolina Thread Trail is a regional network of trails that connect 2.9 million people in fifteen (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

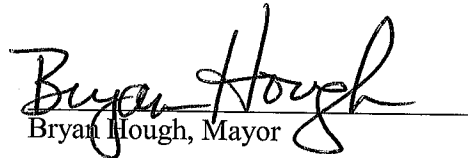
**WHEREAS**, Gaston County was selected for a Carolina Thread Trail pilot project in 2007 to create a greenway master plan where the City of Mount Holly served on the steering committee; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Mount Holly unanimously adopted the Carolina Thread Trail Gaston County Greenway Master Plan as a supplement to the City's Pedestrian Plan on August 12, 2013; and.

**WHEREAS**, the 2019 Mount Holly Parks and Recreation Masterplan outlines outdoor recreation and conservation of natural resources as a priority for Mount Holly recreational needs and citizen's quality of life and places emphasis on equitable access to the Catawba River; and


**NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the City of Mount City Council fully support the addition of the proposed Blueway Trail to the Gaston County Master Plan for the Carolina Thread Trail.

Adopted this the 14<sup>th</sup> day of June 2021.

  
Bryan Hough, Mayor



ATTEST:

  
Amy Miller, City Clerk



# Gaston County

Gaston County  
Board of Commissioners  
www.gastongov.com

## Building and Development Services Board Action

File #: 21-227

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

### STAFF CONTACT

Joseph B. Sciba - Building & Development Services Director - 704-866-3970

Cathy Hart - Parks and 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 Blueway Trail, which includes existing connections along the South Fork River through the Towns of Spencer Mountain, McAdenville, and Cramerton; and, a segment continuing south from Mountain Island Lake along the Catawba River through the City of Mount Holly; with proposed connections along the South Fork River from the Town of Cramerton heading south to Lake Wylie; and, from along the Catawba River through and from the City of Belmont heading south to Lake Wylie; and, along Dutchman's Creek heading south towards the City of Mount Holly; as shown on the attached map.

The Board is requested to consider recommendation for approval of the map amendment in support of this new trails corridor 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

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	AFrale	BHovis	KJohnson	TKelgher	TPhibbs	RWorley	Vote
2021-175	06/22/2021	RW	CB	A	A	A	A	AB	A	A	U

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