

# The Resource



*Preserving our Past and Protecting our Future*

## YCF Facts & Figures:

- ◆ Since 1998, YCF has helped to conserve over 9,400 acres of unique York County resources, at a cost of approximately \$4.7 million to the county.
- ◆ Over 2,970 of these acres were preserved through property acquisition and 6,468 acres through conservation easements.
- ◆ The average cost per acre to YCF was \$497.
- ◆ About 240 acres have been conserved to date in 2016.
- ◆ The largest tract preserved is the 1,647 acres at Worth Mountain near Hickory Grove, and the smallest in size is .20 of an acre near Dave Lyle Boulevard in Rock Hill, which serves as a trail connector.
- ◆ Properties range from the historic White Home in Rock Hill, to scenic open space in York, to farmland near McConnells, to land with rare natural features in Clover.



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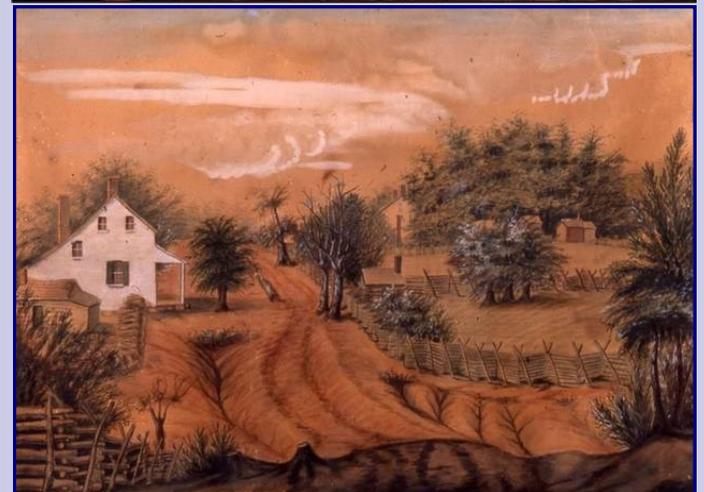
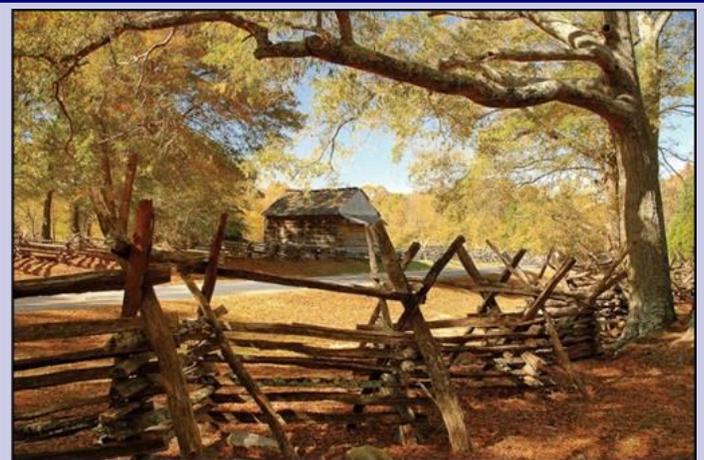
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## YCF Assists in Expanding Protection of Historic Brattonsville

The York County Forever Commission is pleased to provide funding for fees associated with the placement of a conservation easement on approximately 167 acres of scenic open space off Williamson Road, near [Historic Brattonsville](#). The property, owned by Spratt and Sandra White, is currently primarily utilized for agricultural production. With substantial frontage on a tributary of Stoney Fork Creek, it also features important natural and open space resources. Traffic to Historic Brattonsville is often routed past the White property when Brattonsville Road is closed for special events at the historic site. Permanent conservation of this tract also serves to expand the rural buffer around Historic Brattonsville and ensure that the visitors of today (Brattonsville Road in the 21st century, pictured at right above) can continue to enjoy a viewshed similar to those who experienced Brattonsville in earlier centuries (Brattonsville community circa 1840, pictured at right below).

The conservation easement was donated by the property owners and will be held by [Nation Ford Land Trust](#) (NFLT) in Fort Mill. While ownership will remain private, the easement ensures that it will remain undeveloped in perpetuity. NFLT will be responsible for documenting the current conditions of the property, maintaining land-related records, tracking any changes in ownership, and monitoring the site annually to confirm compliance with the conditions of the easement.



The 775 acre Revolutionary War site near McConnells presents the living history of the Scots-Irish and African-Americans in the South Carolina upcountry largely through preserving and interpreting the story of the Bratton community. Featuring more than 30 historic structures from the 1760s to the late 19th century, visitors have an opportunity to see the evolution of Southern culture and architecture in the Carolina Piedmont. A reenactment of the [Battle of Huck's Defeat](#) is one of many special events held at Brattonsville. The site is open Tuesday - Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Sundays from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is charged.

*(Pictured above top, Historic Brattonsville in 2005; above, bottom, painting of Brattonsville circa 1840 by Martha Bratton (1825-1908). Photos courtesy of [York County Culture & Heritage Museums](#).)*

## Carolina Thread Trail Update

The [Carolina Thread Trail](#) (CTT) recently welcomed Andy Kane as its new Senior Director. Previously Mr. Kane served as land stewardship associate for the Catawba Lands Conservancy, the lead agency for the CTT. His new responsibilities include managing all aspects of operations, including working with community partners to add trail miles to the regional system of greenways, trails, and blueways that reaches 15 counties, 2 states, and 2.3 million people.

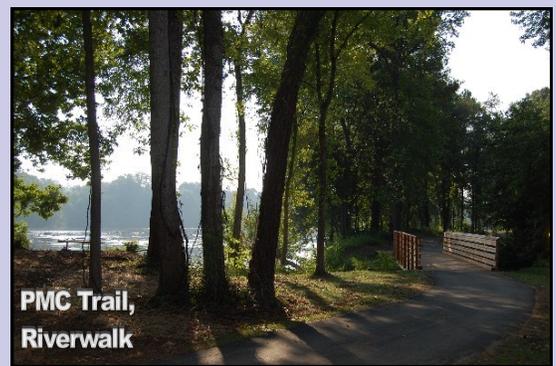
Two CTT segments with significant connections in York County are the [Kings Mountain Gateway Trail](#) (pictured at right, top) and the [Piedmont Medical Center Trail at Riverwalk](#), (pictured at right, bottom). Primarily located in Cleveland County, North Carolina, the Gateway Trail is a multi-use five-mile segment that will ultimately connect downtown

Kings Mountain to the Kings Mountain National and State Parks, Crowders Mountain State Park, and the Overmountain Victory Trail. The trailhead, located at 807 South Battleground Avenue in Kings Mountain, features picnic tables, a kiosk, bike racks, and an interpretive nature trail for children. The Riverwalk PMC Trail, a 2.5 mile path along the banks of the Catawba River, is the most visited segment in the CTT system. The trail provides resting benches with view of the river, picnic tables, and a boat launch near the trailhead located at Terrace Park in Rock Hill.

For more information or to learn how to become involved with supporting the CTT, please visit their [website](#) or contact Outreach Coordinator [Vanessa Garr](#) (704.376.2556, x215).

*(Photos courtesy of CTT.)*

Kings Mountain Gateway Trail



PMC Trail, Riverwalk

### Carolina Thread Trail County Status

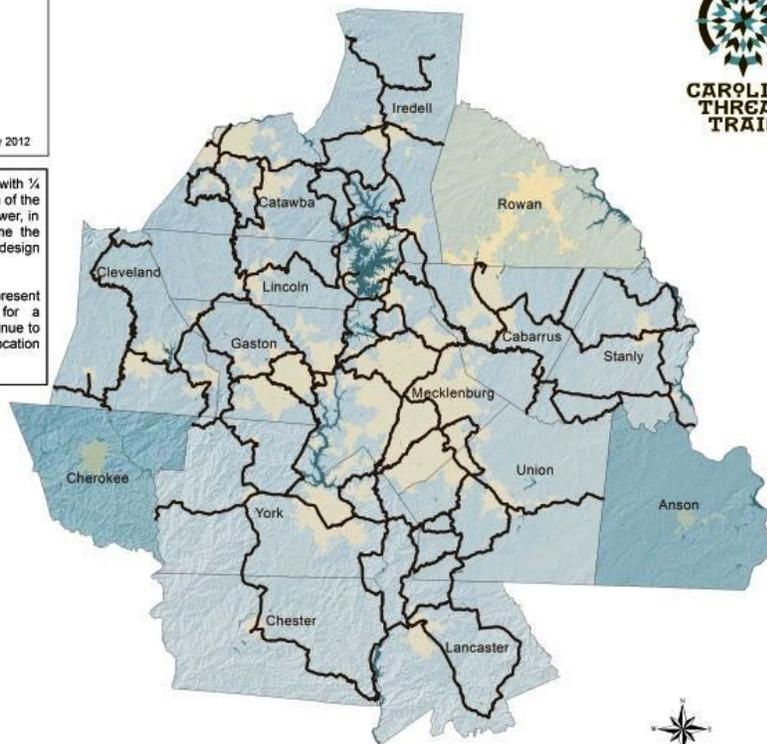
Adopted Trails: 1,311 miles

- Implementation Phase
- Outreach Phase
- Planning Phase

February 2012

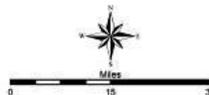
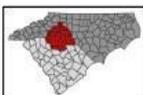
The trail corridors in this plan are depicted with ¼ mile wide lines to show the general location of the intended route. The trail itself will be narrower, in recognition that communities will determine the exact location of their segments upon trail design and development.

The broadly defined greenway corridors present multiple opportunities for adjustments for a defined route, so that landowners can continue to be involved in fine tuning and defining the location of trails and amenities.



### 2015 by the Numbers:

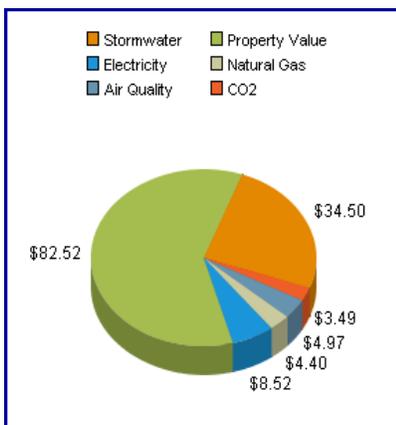
- ◆ 250 miles of trails now open to the public
- ◆ 1,810 hours of service contributed by CTT volunteers
- ◆ 88 Local municipalities have adopted CTT master plan
- ◆ \$1.2 Million in grants awarded to communities in 2015
- ◆ \$6.8 Million in total net assets
- ◆ \$19,000 raised during local [Giving Tuesday Campaign](#)
- ◆ 26 volunteer work-days held in 2015
- ◆ 309 members of the Carolina Thread Trail (From CTT, 2015 Report to the Communities)



## What is a Tree Worth?

Most people think of trees as having values that can't be expressed in dollars. They think of cool shade on a hot day, beautiful flowers in the spring, great fall color, or other, less tangible benefits. Some of the benefits of trees can be expressed in dollars, however. According to *Growing Greener Cities*, a book published in 1992 by the American Forestry Association, trees have significant monetary benefits. They have found that a single tree provides \$73 worth of air conditioning, \$75 worth of erosion control, \$75 worth of wildlife shelter, and \$50 worth of air pollution reduction. Compounding this total of \$273 for fifty years at 5% interest results in a tree value of \$57,151.

For a simple estimation of the current value of benefits that an individual street-side tree can provide, the [Tree Benefit Calculator](#) is a useful assessment tool. With inputs of location by zip code or climate zone, species and tree size, users will get an understanding of the environmental and economic value trees provide on an annual



(Courtesy of [www.treebenefits.com](http://www.treebenefits.com))

basis. For example, a red maple tree, 15 inches in diameter, located in a single-family residential neighborhood in Rock Hill, South Carolina, provides approximately \$138 in annual overall benefits as illustrated in the graph at left.

## The Value of A Tree

One tree can absorb as much carbon in a year as a car produces while driving **26,000** miles

A single tree produces approximately **260** pounds of oxygen per year

In its life a single tree can absorb **1 ton** of carbon dioxide.

**How valuable is one tree for you?**

*Courtesy of <http://visual.ly>*

The *Tree Benefit Calculator* was developed by Casey Trees and Davey Tree Expert Company, and is based on [i-Trees Streets](#) software, which allows communities to conduct and analyze a street tree inventory.

## “This Place Matters”

*This Place Matters* was started as a Do-It-Yourself national campaign project by the [National Trust for Historic Preservation](#) as a way for individuals and groups to shine a spotlight on the historic places that have played a role in their lives. There are zero rules. These can be places that are large or small, nationally significant or personally priceless, historic or maybe just old.

The project is simple: Visit the [Saving Places website](#) to download and print a sign. Take photos with the sign at the places that matter most to you, and share the photos

with others online with the [hashtag #ThisPlaceMatters](#).

This virtual preservation project offers people opportunities to add their personal narratives to the history of places that are meaningful to them, whether those places are community churches, elementary schools, a barn on an old family farm, or the old corner store where kids would gather after school to buy sticks of gum. The campaign provides a platform to preserve, remember, and share the love of these places.



(Pictured above, Sarah Alston's sweetgrass stand in Mt. Pleasant. Courtesy of [US17Coastalhighway.com](http://US17Coastalhighway.com))

*This Place Matters* campaign gives everyone the opportunity to share and celebrate the places that are important to them, or that are unique and in danger of disappearing. For one person that place is the sweetgrass basket stands along Hwy 17 in coastal South Carolina.

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*The Resource*, the official publication of the York County Forever Commission (YCF) is published quarterly in the months of January, April, July, and October.

Pictured below is this issue's featured property. For more information, please click on the link or visit the YCF [webpage](#) on the York County website.



[White Home](#), Rock Hill

The York County Forever Commission (YCF) was created by York County Council in 1998, to serve as the county's land conservation organization through promotion and protection of significant natural, cultural, historic, and environmental resources. Resource preservation is an investment that pays many dividends, to both the individual citizen and the community, whether economic: increasing property values, attracting business and industry, reducing the cost of services; environmental: controlling pollution, managing floodplains-stormwater, protecting wildlife and vegetation; or social: promoting a healthy life-style, providing low-cost recreation, managing growth responsibly, improving quality of life. YCF is composed of nine members: a citizen appointed from each of the seven Council districts and non-voting representatives from Nation Ford Land Trust and Culture & Heritage Commission.

For an information packet about how you can protect your land or the personal benefits of donating property or a conservation easement through the York County Forever program, please visit the YCF [webpage](#) or contact the York County Planning Department at 803.909.7221.

## Commission Corner

The Commission congratulates former **ex-officio Commissioner Janet Steele** on her new position as Director of Landowner Outreach, Forestry Education, and Programs with the South Carolina Forestry Association in Columbia, effective September 1, 2016. Mrs. Steele was also previously the Executive Director of Nation Ford Land Trust. Commissioners praised her service to YCF as an instrumental asset in coordinating many successful joint conservation projects with NFLT and other partners and as a dedicated and enthusiastic supporter of land and resource preservation in York County.

**Registration for the 9th Annual Carolina Thread Trail Forum is Now Open:** Registration for the annual CTT forum opened October 1st. The event will be held on Thursday, December 1st, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Charles Mack Citizen Center in Mooresville, North Carolina. The pre-registration fee is \$15 before December 1st or \$20 on the day of the event. The Forum brings over 200 industry professionals and citizen leaders involved in advancing the trail network together, with sessions and presentations featuring trail planning, design, construction, management, and community engagement.

**Local Holiday Events:** *Christmasville* will be held in Historic Old Town, Rock Hill, December 1st-4th. The [festival](#) features over 70 events and activities centered around a picturesque holiday village and outdoor art festival. *Historic Brattonville Christmas Candlelight Tours* will be held on December 3rd & 10th from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Visitors can experience a Southern-style Christmas in the Carolina Backcountry. Seasonal foods and hot drinks will be available for purchase. An [admission fee](#) is charged for non-

CHM members. *Christmas in Olde York* is scheduled for December 10th-11th from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased in advance [online](#) or on tour dates at the Greater York Chamber of Commerce, 23 East Liberty Street, in York. (803-684-2590).

**Previously Featured Site:** Pictured in the July, 2016 issue of *The Resource* is the Spratt Cemetery in Fort Mill. Containing fourteen marked graves and several others with broken stones or partial markers, it is important as the resting place of the first European families to settle in the Fort Mill area of York County. The cemetery is located on land acquired by Thomas "Kanawha" Spratt, Sr. (1731-1807) from the Catawba Indians when he settled in the area, sometime in the mid-18th century. Housing the graves of three generations of early Spratt family members, the cemetery was established on the Spratt homestead, located on Nation Ford Road. Funerary art includes carved eagles with arrows in their talons on the top of the stones for Thomas Spratt, Sr. and his son, Thomas Spratt, Jr. Thomas Spratt earned his nickname "Kanawha" by fighting with the Catawbas against their enemies the Shawnees in a battle in what is now West Virginia along the Kanawha River. He also fought in the Revolutionary War in several battles in the Carolina backcountry. A number of Catawba braves fought alongside their friend in the Revolution, setting a pattern of service by Catawbas in almost every conflict in the nation's history. The site was listed on the [National Register of Historic Places](#) in 2007.

(Look for the next York County featured site in the January, 2017 issue of *The Resource*.)