



Posted on December 4, 2007 - 5:11PM

Grants to tie in Gaston's textile heritage

[By Michael Barrett](#)

A push to connect 15 area counties and more than 2 million people with new greenways will begin right here.

Gaston County received a \$50,000 grant Tuesday from the Carolina Thread Trail. The money is geared to speed-up plans for a greenway system by bringing together the people and places that will benefit from it.

Gaston County and York County, S.C., each received \$50,000 grants, which mark the Carolina Thread Trail's first investment since its Nov. 9 inception.

"We are thrilled to be able to initiate the planning process in these two counties so quickly," said Dave Cable, executive director of the thread trail and Catawba Lands Conservancy, in a press release. "Both communities already have tremendous interest and energy in greenway development, and will use these grants to build on that excitement."

Organizers want to create new hiking trails and bike paths that will enhance existing greenways in the area. Supporters see it as a conceptual "green interstate system" that will link regional attractions.

The Carolina Thread Trail hopes to eventually boost its investment by attracting state and federal funding for greenway planning and design.

Gaston County's grant will be administered by Gaston Together: Communities of Excellence, on behalf of Gaston 2012, a non-profit group promoting economic development.

You can reach Michael Barrett at 704-869-1826.

http://www.gastongazette.com/news/gaston_13718___article.html/trail_county.html