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Residents to help 'mark the thread' trail

Fort Mill officially will become part of the Carolina Thread Trail next week, and residents are invited to help "mark the thread."

Visitors are invited to the Dairy Barn trail access of the Anne Springs Close Greenway at 10 a.m. Tuesday to see new signs on the trail marking it as part of the Carolina Thread Trail. The trail is a network of trails, greenways, blueways and conservation corridors that will eventually reach 15 counties in North and South Carolina.

The Nation Ford Greenway, which connects to the Anne Springs Close Greenway, also will be part of the Carolina Thread Trail.

Fort Mill is one of 10 communities that will "mark the thread" on Tuesday. After a brief celebration, Anne Springs Close will lead a three-quarter mile hike down the trail to the Greenway's Nature Center. The celebration is free. Refreshments will be available at the Greenway Nature Center after the hike. Marking the thread is an exciting day, said Tim Patterson, president of Leroy Springs & Co. The trail project has been in the works since 2004. Officials estimate that it could take up to 20 years to complete.

"I think it's significant because it's part of such a huge undertaking," Patterson said.

Fort Mill Times, www.fortmilltimes.com

<http://www.heraldonline.com/109/story/1593868.html>