

## Thread Trail markers to go up in some communities Tuesday

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Visited a greenway lately?

Without knowing it, you might have been jogging, walking or sitting on a park bench along the Carolina Thread Trail.

It's planned as a 15-county Carolinas network of paths linking cities, towns and attractions spread over 7,300 square miles.

Completed segments so far are local greenways and trails, with markers bearing their individual names.

That changes Tuesday, when Thread Trail logo signs will be added – almost in concert – in 11 communities over five counties to designate 22 miles as branches of the Thread Trail.

Later that day, community leaders, planners and organizers will celebrate trail progress together in Fort Mill.

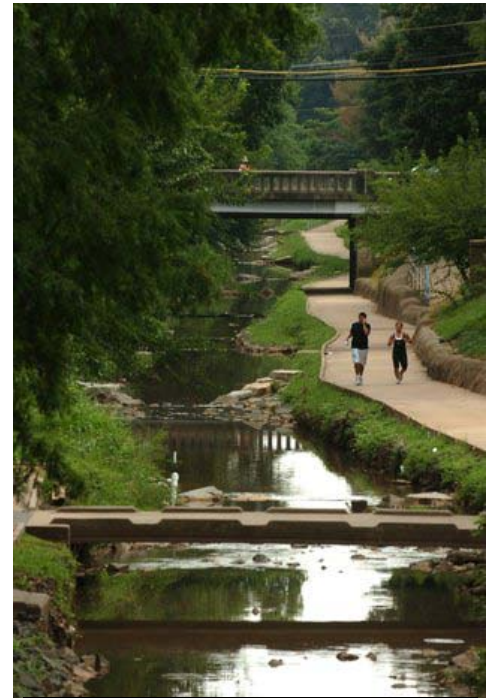
"There are 11 communities in five counties that have existing trails on the ground," said project director Ann Browning. "We'll be celebrating the designation of those as part of this regional system."

Planning continues on routes in all five counties. Meanwhile, Thread Trail markers will be installed in Chester, Concord, Cramerton, Fort Mill, Gastonia, Great Falls, Kannapolis, McAdenville, Mecklenburg County, Mount Holly and Rock Hill.

Counties still working to get connected are Anson, Catawba, Cherokee, Cleveland, Iredell, Lancaster, Lincoln, Stanly and Union.

"It's up to the communities to plan the types of trails that they have, the look and the feel and personality of their trails, and the destinations that they deem most important," said Dean Thompson, a spokesman for Catawba Lands Conservancy, a project leader along with The Trust for Public Land, both land conservation groups.

Counties design and build connecting trails with money from public and private sources.



Signs will go up to designate Little Sugar Creek Greenway as a part of the Carolina Thread Trail.

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/local/story/939956.html>