

Lincolnton gets \$9,200 to help with trail project

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By Sarah Melton

The City of Lincolnton has received \$9,200 from The Carolina Thread Trail.

The 1.3-mile project will connect City Park and the Marcia H. Cloninger Rail Trail with the South Fork River via the Clark Creek and Walker Branch riparian corridors.

"This was a priority corridor outlined in the adopted Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan for Lincoln County communities," said Randi Gates, community coordinator for The Carolina Thread Trail.

Maps indicate one-fourth-mile wide trails to show the general location of the intended route, but exact routes will be determined later, based on dialogue with the community and interested landowners.

"The corridor design is the next step to work with landowners to determine a parcel by parcel location for the future trail," Gates said.

The City of Lincolnton has committed a 20 percent local cash match to The Carolina Thread Trail grant for this project.

The Carolina Thread Trail Governing Board also approved grant applications for 12 other communities totaling \$563,795. The grants will be used to assist with trail corridor design, land acquisition and construction.

"Seven counties have created trail master plans and lots of local momentum," said Ruth Shaw, chair of the Governing Board. "This round of funding will help put trail miles on the ground – a great example of thinking regionally and locally."

Grants will contribute to approximately 43 miles of trails that weave throughout the trail's 15-county system and benefit 2.3 million citizens.

To date, The Carolina Thread Trail has awarded more than \$1.5 million in catalytic grants.

Catawba Leads Conservancy is the lead agency for The Carolina Thread Trail. The organization is working with the Foundation for the Carolinas and many other local partners.

For more information about The Carolina Thread Trail, visit www.carolinathreadtrail.org.

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