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Thread Trail 'marking' Saturday

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By Sarah Melton

Seven communities, including Lincolnton, along the Carolina Thread Trail will host "Marking the Thread" events starting this week.

The City of Lincolnton will host its celebration at 10 a.m. Saturday. A Carolina Thread Trail marker will be unveiled at the Marcia H. Cloninger Rail Trail.

Mayor John Gilleland will be present, along with other local leaders. The public is invited to attend.

The Carolina Thread Trail is a 15-county initiative between North Carolina and South Carolina designed to facilitate a regional network of trails, blueways and conservation corridors for 2.3 million citizens.

The Catawaba Lands Conservancy is the lead agency for The Thread, working in partnership with Foundation for The Carolinas and many other local agencies.

The Lands Conservancy protects more than 8,000 acres in Catawba, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg and Union counties and is one of 24 trusts serving North Carolina.

Of the 15 counties, eight have fully adopted master plans, four are in active planning and three are engaged in the citizen outreach phase.

To date, counties with adopted plans have identified 874 miles of planned trails and more than 63 miles of trails that are now open for the public.

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

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