

THE STANLY NEWS AND PRESS

Oakboro begins 'Marking the Thread'

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By Tiffany Thompson

Oakboro become one of the first municipalities from across a 15-county region to officially become a part of the Carolina Thread Trail (Thread).

The town had an unveiling ceremony Sept. 18 to celebrate "Marking the Thread," as the trail that begins at the railroad museum and extends through Oakboro District Park was marked as a portion of the Thread.

"It is no mistake that Oakboro would be one of the first areas from Stanly County to become a part of the Thread. The town has been a leader in developing facilities like the District Park for its residents, and [the town] should be applauded for [their] efforts," said Lindsey Dunevant, Stanly County commissioner and a member of the Advisory Council with the Carolina Thread Trail.

The Thread offers a growing network of trails and conservation corridors for walking, biking, commuting, fishing, paddling and simply enjoying. Counties and towns design and own the trails that help to enrich communities in the areas of health and wellness, economic development, land preservation and community collaboration.

"The vision for the Carolina Thread Trail began in 2005 to be a regional and environmental project to connect 15 counties, 11 of which are in North Carolina and four in South Carolina. The plan is to have more than 100 miles of trails throughout Stanly County, 65 of which are already on the ground," Dunevant said.

Of the 15 counties in the region, eight have fully adopted master plans, four are in the active planning stages 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 are now open for public enjoyment.

<http://thesnponline.com/aroundthecounty/x180467667/Oakboro-begins-Marking-the-Thread>