

Davidson to open greenway on May 21

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Davidson will celebrate the opening of its West Branch Greenway from 1 to 4 p.m. May 21 with guided tours educating visitors on wildlife in the area.

The town will now have at least 12 miles of greenways and bike lanes.

"We have sought to build this section of greenway for over a decade," Davidson Planning Manager Lauren Blackburn said. "The West Branch Greenway reaches an area of the town that was previously underserved by public greenways."

Construction was funded by federal stimulus dollars authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2008

The town's overall trail network will eventually reach regional destinations in Cabarrus and Mecklenburg counties when built out as part of the Carolina Thread Trail, Blackburn said.

The Carolina Thread Trail is a planned multi-county network of trails, bike lanes and areas of waterways including Lake Norman and the Catawba River for canoes and other non-motorized craft.

Jim Garges, Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation director, will welcome guests shortly after 1 p.m. May 21, and members of the Davidson Lands Conservancy will lead walking tours of the greenway trail.

Nature preserve staff with Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation will also lead walking tours of the adjacent West Branch Nature Preserve.

Wear clothes and shoes for off-trail hiking.

Access to the greenway will be at the southern end of Shearer Road in Davidson. Park at the edge of Shearer Road near the barricade to the River Run Phase V development. Walkers and cyclists will be permitted through the barricade to access the greenway.

Activities will start near the Shearer Road bridge and greenway crossing. Other activities will include bike rides and scavenger hunts, and information will be provided on area greenways and bikeways. A map and parking details are at www.ci.davidson.nc.us.

Read more: <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2011/05/13/2293552/davidson-to-open-greenway-on-may.html>