

## **Route for thread trail to be unveiled**

by: Sarah Melton  
(7/6/2009)

---

A draft map of the Carolina Thread Trail in Lincoln County will soon be unveiled.

The Carolina Thread Trail is a regional network of greenways and trails that will reach 15 counties, including Lincoln, and 2.3 million citizens.

Residents have previously weighed in on the trail at a series of forums. Some residents favor the concept, while others don't want the trail near their property.

Now, residents will be able to see how their ideas were incorporated into the draft map at an open house Tuesday.

"Before, when the citizens came and looked, we were asking for their ideas," said Randy Williams, principal planner for Lincoln County.

"This time, they will be able to see the recommendations of the trail locations and they will be able to react to that."

Residents will get to see the Carolina Thread Trail connecting to the Marcia Cloninger Trail in downtown Lincolnton and the Rhyne Trail in southern Lincoln County, Williams said.

The Thread Trail will also connect to East Lincoln Recreation Center, East Lincoln Park and the future Sally Y's site, he said.

"The South Fork River corridor is an important destination," said Randi Gates, community coordinator for the Carolina Thread Trail in Lincoln County.

"That corridor runs from Catawba into Lincoln and even into Gaston county, all of which are part of our 15-county footprint of the Carolina Thread Trail. That is almost an obvious Carolina Thread Trail route."

The regional Thread Trail, totaling between \$100 million and \$150 million, would be funded with a combination of private, state and federal funds. Counties would likely pitch in about \$40 million during a 10-year period.

A \$60,000 planning grant is being used now to finance the public forums.

There is no set amount Lincoln County or Lincolnton would be expected to commit to for now beyond the \$3,000 each has already spent as matching grant money used to jump-start the mapping process.

The next open house will be Tuesday from 5:30 till 8 p.m. at the Lincoln County Family YMCA, 1402 E. Gaston St. in Lincolnton. Representatives from the county, City of Lincolnton, Carolina Thread Trail and project consultant Greenways Inc. will be present to answer questions.

Gates and Williams said the Lincoln County trail may be tweaked, based on any feedback they receive at the open house. A final open house will be held during the Lincoln County Apple Festival in September.

The final plan is expected to go before city and county commissioners for final approval by the end of the year.

For more information, go online and visit [www.carolinathreadtrail.org](http://www.carolinathreadtrail.org), or contact Williams at 704-736-8472.

<http://www.lincolntimesnews.com/Default.asp?Section=20&VA=19515>