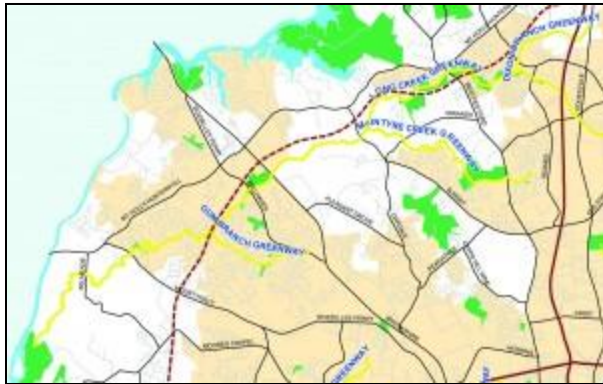


Long Creek Greenway awarded grant

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The path of the Long Creek Greenway is outlined in yellow in the map above.

The Carolina Thread Trail Governing Board recently approved a \$19,500 grant to the Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation Department to develop the Long Creek Greenway, which will eventually cross the Mountain Island area.

The grant will be used to acquire and protect 185 acres along the Long Creek corridor just north of the U.S. National Whitewater Center. Overall, the project will protect nearly 4.5 miles of stream frontage and provide for approximately 2 miles of trail.

Long Creek Greenway will eventually run from the Catawba River to Interstate 77 near

Northlake Mall. Along the way it will pass through the Shuffletown Sportsplex on Belhaven Boulevard and cross Reames Road and Beatties Ford Road.

The greenway is also part of the plan for Carolina Thread Trail, expected to run through 15 N.C. and S.C. counties.

Carolina Thread Trail awarded a total of \$563,795 to 13 community projects along the trail. Grants will contribute to approximately 43 miles of trails that weave throughout the Carolina Thread Trail 15-county system.

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

These projects will take place in Cabarrus, Chester, Cleveland, York, Gaston, Lincoln and Mecklenburg counties. All counties that were eligible by virtue of having completed Carolina Thread Trail master plans at the time of application are represented. Grant recipients include local governments, two land trusts and two local trail non-profits. To date, The Thread Trail has awarded more than \$1.5 million in catalytic grants to Carolina Thread Trail communities and trail projects.

The Carolina Thread Trail is a two state initiative designed to inspire and facilitate the creation of a regional network of trails, blueways, and conservation corridors that is growing together to link more than 2.3 million citizens. With technical resources and catalytic funding from The Thread Trail, local communities plan and implement their portions of this green interstate system. Catawba Lands Conservancy is the lead agency for The Thread, working in partnership with Foundation For The Carolinas and many other local partners.

<http://www.mountainislandweekly.com/news/2010/10/long-creek-greenway-awarded-grant/>