

## Thread Trail Questions and Answers

Here are some questions and answers about the Thread Trail:

- What is a greenway? A greenway is a corridor of undeveloped land preserved for recreational use or environmental protection. The Carolina Thread Trail initiative is an effort to encourage 15 counties in the south-central piedmont of North Carolina and north-central South Carolina to create a large, interconnected trail and greenway system.
- What will the Carolina Thread Trail link together? 2.3 Million People Over 40 Destinations; 7,300 Square Miles; 15 Counties; 2 States
- How will the Carolina Thread Trail benefit our communities? It will: 1) Support economic prosperity by attracting and retaining new employers to the area; 2) Promote tourism; 3) Foster the joining of diverse communities; 4) Serve as an alternative means of transportation; 5) Encourage healthy lifestyles; 6) Aid in fresh air and clean water preservation; 7) Promote permanent conservation of nature and wildlife habitats; 8) Increase awareness and visitation of cultural and historical venues; 9) Create a sustainable Carolinas legacy for generations to come; 10) Educate our children through the use of outdoor classrooms; and 11) Connect our children to nature.
- What counties are envisioned to be part of the initiative? Anson, Cabarrus, Catawba, Cherokee, Chester, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Lancaster, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanly, Union and York
- Who is leading the effort? The Catawba Lands Conservancy, in partnership with local land trusts and community partners, is the lead agency for the Carolina Thread Trail.
- What is the role of the Carolina Thread Trail? The leaders of the Carolina Thread Trail play three roles. They help provide a vision for a system of connected trails and greenways throughout the 15-county region and they facilitate getting communities together to share this connected vision. They provide funding by raising private capital that will be given out in grants to communities for planning and building segments of The Thread. Finally, they provide assistance in sourcing state and federal funding and in accessing technical expertise required to build trails and greenways.
- How long will the trail take to build? The Thread will develop over time as individual trail and greenway projects guided by a regional projects, vision, grow together. Funding and expertise from the Carolina Thread Trail will accelerate individual efforts and facilitate linkages. Key linkages will occur in the next few years and the network will unfold over the next 10 to 20 years.
- Which Trails will become the Carolina Thread Trail? The Thread Trail will focus on corridors that provide the connecting legs of a regional trail system. It will link individual local greenway and blueway projects through a "green interstate" network. Not every trail in a community will be part of The Thread-only key legs.
- How will The Thread be funded? The Thread Trail will be financed with both private donations and public funding. The project's funding model was developed following two years of planning and study of regional greenway projects in the US. The funding model starts with a pool of private dollars that will be given as grants to local communities. These dollars provide the incentive for planning, design, land acquisition, and construction of greenways that will eventually link all 15 counties in the region to each other and to other greenway systems outside the region.
- How safe will it be? Safety along greenways and trails is of the highest importance. There is little evidence to support the fear that these natural spaces encourage criminal activity. In fact, evidence supports the notion that greenways, trails and converted rail beds may actually discourage crime and vandalism in many areas. These areas no longer serve as places for people to hang out, dump trash, vandalize or engage in criminal activity because there is too great a risk that they will be discovered.
- How will land be acquired for The Thread? A guiding principle of the Carolina Thread Trail is "respect for the land and respect for the land owners". As communities determine the location of their segments of The Thread, they will have alternative routes to consider that include public lands or property owned by willing landholders, including developers who want to offer this amenity to their neighborhoods. The following is the Carolina Thread Trail position statement regarding eminent domain: 1) The Carolina Thread Trail is a private non-profit entity that has no governmental power, such as eminent domain. 2) Any decision to exercise eminent domain is at the discretion of the community's governing body. It is very seldom utilized for trails. 3) While the decision to exercise eminent domain is not within the Carolina Thread Trail's purview, our organization does not support its use for creating trails and greenways. 4) Some local governments choose to adopt trail plans with language indicating that they will not utilize eminent domain in the development of their trails. 5) The Thread is planned, built and owned by the communities. Community participation is voluntary, and planning is collaborative and based on citizen input. Planning guidelines encourage routing The Thread across public land or rights of way or using land or rights of way acquired from willing landowners. The Thread is a long term project that is being built as opportunities long-term for implementation of trail segments arise over time.
- Are there other regions where this kind of trail has been successfully built? There are very successful, large-scale trail systems in St. Louis, Indianapolis, Detroit and several other communities across the U.S. Nearby, the Palmetto Trail traverses South Carolina, from the mountains of Oconee State Park in the west to the Atlantic Ocean just north of Georgetown. Additionally, the Mountains to Sea Trail traverses several large sections of North Carolina between Clingman's Dome in the West all the way to Jockey's Ridge State Park near the Atlantic Ocean.

For more information call 704-376-2556 ext 216 or visit [www.CarolinaThreadTrail.org](http://www.CarolinaThreadTrail.org).

## Website Workshops for Small Business Owners in Anson County

Website workshops are starting up again for small business owners in Anson County. Create your own website and learn how to make the changes and updates yourself. No matter how small, every business needs a website. Nowadays customers are looking online for businesses.

We all need to think bigger than Anson County. For some businesses in Anson County there simply are not enough customers. Denise Beachum at Fancy Crafts & Granny Hollow Pottery has had a website for several years. She gets a lot of Anson County customers, but knows she needs to market outside the county. She gets customers from Charlotte who come to her gift shop in Uptown Wadesboro when they find her business after searching online for a "North Carolina gift shop." Danny Beachum of Beachum Landscaping Materials has customers from areas outside of Anson calling him to deliver driveway gravel or red mulch because of his website. The Forever Inn Bed & Breakfast wouldn't survive on just Anson County customers. Having a website is crucial. Each of these Anson County businesses are marketing to Anson County, all of North Carolina, and the world with their websites.

So...learn how to do it yourself, don't wait for someone to do it for you and send you a bill. Own your domain name and website. Search engine and online directory submissions are essential and are included in the 4 classes. It's very important that you claim your listing on the major search engines and local directories so customers can find you.

Workshops include 10 to 12 hours of class time (4 class meetings) and are limited to a maximum of 4 to 6 people. The fee for the workshop is per website so the class can be taken by a couple or two people from one business. You'll have a published website at the end of the four classes.

To sign up or for more details contact Merrie Datin at 704-695-1304 or email [mdatn@yahoo.com](mailto:mdatn@yahoo.com).

## Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center Events for January

- Emergency Food Pantry, Wednesday mornings at 9 a.m. This is for families in a short time crisis.
- USDA Food Distribution, Tuesday after the 4th Sunday of each month at 9 a.m. You will need to qualify.
- Computer skill classes for adults and seniors. BRLC is a Job link Access Point for people who are looking for work. Call 704-826-8182 or 704-826-8737.
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, Monday, January 16 at 12 noon. Lunch will be provided. The community is invited to attend this celebration.
- God Love You Block Party, Saturday, January 28, 11 to 1:30 p.m. Food, games, music and much more. The entire family is invited. Hosted by Hopewell UMC, Harmony Community Church and others. For more information or if you would like to participate contact Pastor Paul McClure at 704-272-7219.

## Openings for Singers in the Anson Singers Community Choir

The Anson Singers Community Choir has begun spring rehearsals. Anyone in Anson or surrounding counties is invited to join the choir. The choir is co-sponsored by the Anson County Arts Council and the First United Methodist Church, and is directed by Emily Litaker Privette.

This spring they will join with the Stanly County Chorale in a presentation of Mendelssohn's *Elijah*.

There is a small cost for music and other necessary materials. There are openings in every section for soprano, alto, tenor and bass. Come be a part of this exciting musical opportunity!

For more information call the First United Methodist Church at 704-694-5170.

## Chamber of Commerce Offers Advertising Opportunity

The Anson County Chamber of Commerce has advertising opportunities available in their Chamberlines Newsletter and on the Chamberlights insert. 450 copies of The Chamberlines is sent out each month. The Chamberlights is an insert that goes in to the newsletter with a free feature in one month's issue.

There are two spaces available in the newsletter at \$15 a month or \$165 for 11 months. The Chamberlights has four spaces available at \$25 a month or \$250 for 10 months. This is on a first come first serve basis. Don't miss your opportunity to put your marketing dollars to work for you. Please contact the Chamber by calling 704-694-4181.

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