



**CAROLINA
THREAD
TRAIL**

Weaving
Communities
Together

Conserving our land

KINGS MOUNTAIN



Kings Mountain Gateway Trail

This trail aims to connect Kings Mountain to Crowders Mountain State Park, Kings Mountain State Park and Kings Mountain National Military Park. The first phase of the trail open to the public is 2.26 miles and consists of paved trail and soft-packed gravel.



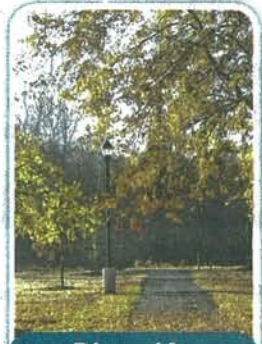
Highland Rail Trail

The 1.67-mile trail begins downtown at Long Avenue near Broad Street and ends at Rankin Lake Road, north of I-85. A plan calls for the rail to connect downtown Gastonia to Rankin Lake Park.



Catawba Creek Greenway

The 1.8-mile greenway starts at Robinwood Road just north of the Catawba Creek Bridge and runs west along Catawba Creek. The paved trail runs through wooded and open creek areas between several residential areas. It intersects at the Avon Creek Greenway near Lineberger Park, then runs parallel to the Municipal Golf Course and ends at Ferguson Park.



Riverside Greenway

This 1.2-mile loop wraps around the bank of the South Fork River in Cramerton. It starts at the intersection of Riverside Drive and Cramer Mountain Road. The trail ends at the Southern Railroad overpass.

Grants will allow Carolina Thread Trail to expand

By Amanda Memrick

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Scenic land that might otherwise be snatched up by developers and turned into subdivisions or shopping centers is being conserved, thanks to low land prices brought on by the soured real estate market.

"It is a phenomenal time for conservation in that sense," said Davis J. Cable, executive director of the Catawba Lands Conservancy.

Cable said he's never seen such a steep drop in land values. In the past two years, prices for land in the Charlotte area have dropped by staggering amounts, he said.

Those low prices make it easier for conservation groups like the Catawba Lands Conservancy to make acquisitions.

One project spearheaded by the conservancy is the Carolina Thread Trail, a regional network of greenway trails in 15 counties.

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- A list of the 2010 grants each community has received.
- Details on how many miles of the Carolina Thread Trail are planned and what's already been built.

The Carolina Thread Trail recently awarded \$564,795 worth of grants to 13 community projects.

"Trails in general offer a tremendous amount of benefit to the community," said Randi Gates, Carolina Thread Trail community coordinator.

Some of those benefits include alternative transportation, the environmental benefits of getting cars off the road and the health benefits of encouraging people to walk, run or pedal down a greenway. Trails also help economic development, she said.

"We see a rise in property values that are adjacent to trails," Gates said.

Besemer City will start work on a 12-foot-wide, .29-mile, multipurpose crushed-stone trail that will run through the city park, said Besemer City Planning Director Kevin Krouse.

A recently completed pedestrian plan pushes for trails, Krouse said, and the city wanted to be a part of the Carolina Thread Trail.

"This was a perfect place to do that trail," Krouse said.

Work could start next spring or next fall depending on what other town projects are in the works, he said. The contract allows the town two years for completion.

The newest Thread Trail to open is a 2-mile trail in McAdenville at the R.Y. McAden River Access off Dickson Road that opened this month. It runs through the 95-acre Pharr Yarns Preserve donated by Pharr Yarns and the Carstarphen family to Catawba Lands Conservancy in April.

You can reach Amanda Memrick at 704-869-1839.



Catawba River Greenway

The mile-long Catawba River Greenway trail is located along the Catawba River in Mount Holly and will connect with the Tuckaseegee Park. The trail is a 10-foot wide paved asphalt surface that connects to a concrete trail loop that runs along Fites Creek.

News Wrap-up

<< Samaritan

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The man noticed antifreeze coming out of the engine and pointed to a crack in the plastic where antifreeze is poured in. He said he couldn't fix it, but his advice at least eased Anderson's mind. She called her insurance company, which sent a tow truck.

The man and his family went inside the restaurant to eat dinner, but continued to check on Anderson's family as they waited in the parking lot. In the meantime, Anderson's daughter also went inside to order a pizza.

By the time Anderson went to pay for it, the other family was leaving.

"When the lady brought the pizza, I asked her how much is it," she said. "She said it's taken care of."

Anderson realized what had happened and chased the other family down in the parking lot. She tried to insist on paying them back, to no avail.

"He said 'ma'am, you have so much going on, the last thing you need to worry about is paying for a pizza,'" she said. "I said 'my God, you're such a gentleman, like guardian angels.'"

The man introduced himself and his family, but with all that was going on, Anderson forgot their names.

A tow truck took Anderson's car away, and another sister drove from Charlotte to pick her up.

Anderson said she doesn't like to view things in racial contexts, but couldn't help but point out that she is black, and the other family was white.

"You hear about so many people being prejudiced, but they were so loving, sweet and sincere," she said.

When she and her daughter finally got home Sunday night, they got down on their knees and thanked God for sending a Good Samaritan to help them. She hopes the local man and his family realize how much their assistance meant.

"Something tragic could have happened to us," she said. "He was just a great inspiration ... a great help."

You can reach Michael Barrett at 704-869-1826.

CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL

Community grants

Here's a list of the 2010 grants each community has received and how they will be used:

Cramerton

\$31,000 for the Goat Island recreation project.

Belmont

\$30,000 for construction drawings for a portion of railway between Belmont Abbey College and downtown Belmont for a rail trail.

Bessemer City

\$10,000 to construct a park within the Bessemer City park.

Lincolnton

\$9,200 for corridor design for a corridor that will connect the city park and the north end of the Marcia Cloninger Rail-Trail to the South Fork River.

Kings Mountain Gateway

\$150,000 for constructing phase three of the trail to go south of I-85.

Kings Mountain

\$16,600 to coordinate design plans at Pott's Creek from Moss Lake Park to the Kings Mountain Gateway.

Shelby

\$15,000 to coordinate design plans for a portion of First Broad River trail from the historic trestle in Shelby down to the YMCA Riverbend Golf Course.

■ Counties involved in the Carolina Thread Trail include Anson, Cabarrus, Catawba, Cherokee, Chester, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Lancaster, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanly, Union and York, S.C.

■ So far, about 66 miles of the trail are open to the public, said Gates, and approximately 876 miles of trails are planned.

Planned & built

Here's how many miles of the Carolina Thread Trail are planned and what has actually been built in the Gaston County area.

County	Planned	Built
Gaston	114.1	12.7
Lincoln	89.2	1.9
Cleveland	106.5	2.8
York, S.C.	127.1	16.35

What's been built

Gaston County

- Blueway (South Fork River): 5.2 miles
 - Highland Rail Trail, Gastonia: 1.5 miles
 - Catawba Creek Greenway, Gastonia: 1.8 miles
 - Riverside Greenway, Cramerton: 1.2 miles
 - Catawba River Greenway, Mount Holly: 1 mile
 - South Fork Trail, McDenville/Lowell: 2 miles
- Total: 12.7 miles**

Lincoln County

- Marcia Cloninger Rail Trail: 1 mile
 - South Fork Rail Trail: 0.9 mile
- Total: 1.9 miles**

Cleveland County

- Kings Mountain Gateway Trail: 0.3 miles
 - Broad River Greenway: 2.5 miles
- Total: 2.8 miles**

Police investigate armed robbery

Gastonia Police officers are investigating an armed robbery that occurred Tuesday afternoon at the Kingsway at 1105 Bessemer City Road, according to an incident report.

Brittany Radic told police that a person came in the store at 12:47 p.m. Tuesday and pointed a gun at her and demanded money.

The report does not offer a suspect description or how the person left the scene.

— Kevin Ellis

Police: Man gave alcohol and drugs to teens

A Cherryville resident allegedly delivered drugs and alcohol to a minor Tuesday.

Jacob Bryant, 18, of the 100 block of Joy Drive, was arrested on charges of selling or delivering a controlled substance to a minor, contributing to the delinquency of a juvenile and aiding and abetting alcohol violation.

According to court documents, Bryant delivered a Schedule IV controlled substance called Lorazepam to the minor. The minor is described as a boy between the ages of 13 and 16. Also, documents state the minor was in a condition of intoxication on Lorazepam and alcohol.

Bryant was booked into Cleveland County Jail in lieu of a secured \$2,500 bond.

— Alicia Banks

Police seek help in finding missing man

Gaston County Police seeks the public's help in finding a 64-year-old man who suffers from dementia and may be confused

