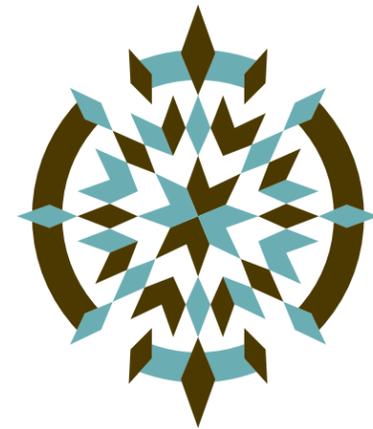


The Union County Carolina Thread Trail connection opportunities are depicted in this map with quarter-mile-wide lines to illustrate connections between destinations, but not precise routes. The broadly defined corridors present multiple opportunities for adjustments, so that landowners and the community can continue to be involved in fine-tuning and defining the location of trails and amenities.



**CAROLINA
THREAD
TRAIL**

*Weaving
Communities
Together*

**CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL MASTER PLAN
FOR UNION COUNTY COMMUNITIES**

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INTRODUCTION

The Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan for Union County and Participating Municipalities expresses a 20-year vision for connecting the communities of Union County to one another and for creating safe, scenic, and fun recreation and transportation choices for residents and neighbors.

The plan outlines a means for long-term coordination of greenway and trail development in Union County's city and towns to help promote the preservation and improvement of residents' quality of life. It builds on past plans to integrate all existing and proposed municipal trails with additional greenway/trail segments that will together create a comprehensive multiuse network for connecting people and the places they love.



ABOUT THE CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL

"The Thread" is a regional network of greenways, trails, and conserved lands that will reach approximately 2.3 million citizens in North and South Carolina. It will link people, places, cities, towns, and attractions across 15 counties. The Thread will help preserve natural areas and will be a place for young and old to explore nature, culture, science, and history.



UNION COUNTY'S CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL

This plan was developed over one year, spearheaded by the Carolina Thread Trail initiative but directed by a steering committee of representatives from municipal and county governments and informed by about 900 citizens through extensive public input.



In sum, the 100-mile Thread route includes about 2 miles of existing trails and incorporates 38 miles of trails that were already proposed by local governments in Union County. Almost all the new trails are proposed along existing roads or near streams.

Segments will likely appear one by one, developed through various arrangements involving multiple funding partners, donors, and volunteers. The look and feel of the Carolina Thread Trail will vary from community to community within the county. The designation as part of the Carolina Thread Trail will signify that a trail is part of this interconnected system, created by local communities working together to identify connection points and build trails that will grow together over time.



The following actions are recommended to take this plan from concept to reality in an intentional, coordinated, fair, and transparent way, consistent with the planning to date:

1. Adopt the Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan for Union County and Participating Municipalities. [1 year]
2. Encourage the incorporation of this plan by the county and local governments as an integral part of local comprehensive planning and other land use planning efforts. [1–3 years]
3. Build public support. [1–2 years]
4. Develop a minimum of 1.5 miles of greenways each year for the next 10 years and a minimum of 3 miles of greenways each year thereafter. [20 years]
5. Strategically pursue trail projects to maximize results and minimize costs. [1 year–ongoing]
6. Ensure that the project list for the Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan for Union County and Participating Municipalities is current and relevant. [Review within 10 years.]

CONCLUSION

Through a collaborative planning process, community members in Union County articulated a vision for a community greenway system and put forth thoughtful recommendations for how best to connect people and places with trails. The many people who have been involved in the planning process recognize the urgency of starting a countywide and regionwide linear park system now, while opportunities still exist for making connections and linking important places. They also recognize that this plan will not be implemented overnight, and that while segments should begin appearing soon, it will take years, if not decades, to link them all together. The time to start is now.

