



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

Tuesday, June 9, 2015

Contact: Bill Prokop, City Manager, 843-525-7000

Beaufort-area residents donate water fountain and installation at Spanish Moss Trail

Local residents saw a need for a water fountain on the popular Spanish Moss Trail and donated time and materials in partnership with the City of Beaufort to install the bubbler at the Depot Road trailhead.

“As more and more people walk and bike on the Spanish Moss Trail, for exercise and for peace of mind, it became clear that a water fountain would be a nice addition,” Beaufort City Manager Bill Prokop said.

“At the same time, the Friends of the Spanish Moss Trail group was thinking the same thing, and the whole project just came together.”

Joining forces to install the donated water fountain were:

- Beaufort Construction, Merritt Patterson and Leith Webb, who donated their labor and materials to dig, form, pour and finish the slab, and then provided clean-up
- Lohr Plumbing and Britt Doran donated the water line and drain material, and hooked up the plumbing and drainage, then anchored the water fountain
- Lowcountry Concrete and Brandon Brock provided a half-off discount on the concrete
- Friends of the Spanish Moss Trail donated the actual drinking fountain
- The City of Beaufort waived the building permit fee.

The Spanish Moss Trail is a rails-to-trail project that is steadily converting a former railroad into a paved public trailway. When all phases are complete, the Spanish Moss Trail will stretch almost 14 miles and connect Port Royal, Beaufort, Burton and Grays Hill to the Whale Branch Pier.

"The drinking fountain was donated by The Konoza Family and installed through the cooperation of Beaufort Construction, Lohr Plumbing, Low Country Concrete and the City. As has been the case with much of the Trail, it was accomplished through the joint efforts of many members of the Community," said Dean Moss, executive director of the Friends of the Spanish Moss Trail and one of the early leaders in converting the rail line to a trail.

The trail encourages healthy lifestyles by providing a paved, dedicated pedestrian and bike trail that connects neighborhoods, parks and businesses; spurs economic development and neighborhood revitalization; offers public access for residents and visitors to enjoy water and marsh views; and promotes visitor interest to Beaufort and the Sea Islands, according to the Friends of the Spanish Moss Trail.

"It's great to see the community come together to add features for the public use and the public good," Prokop said. "The Spanish Moss Trail is one of our new jewels that enhances our entire area."

END